



Vehicles from Mexico and the U.S. approach a border crossing in El Paso, Texas, Monday, April 1, 2019.

Associated Press

Trump eases up on border shutdown threat

By JILL COLVIN and COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump eased up Tuesday on his threats to shut the southern border this week as officials across his administration explored half-measures that might satisfy the president's urge for action, like stopping only foot traffic at certain crossings.

Facing a surge of Central American migrants trying to enter the U.S., Trump last week threatened to seal the border this week if Mexico did not immediately halt all illegal im-

migration into the U.S., a move would have enormous economic consequences on both sides of the border.

While Trump on Tuesday did not back off the idea completely, he said he was pleased with steps Mexico had taken in recent days and renewed his calls for Congress to make changes he contends would solve the problem.

"Let's see if they keep it done," he said of Mexico. "Now, if they don't, or if we don't make a deal with Congress, the border's going to be closed, 100%." He also said that he might

only close "large sections of the border" and "not all of it." He added that his posturing was "the only way we're getting a response."

Later Tuesday, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen held an emergency call with Cabinet members and White House aides, saying, "We are going to treat it as if we have been hit by a Category 5 hurricane," according to a person on the call. The person was not authorized to discuss the call publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Nielsen was creating an emergency operations center and named U.S. Border Patrol official Manny Padilla as an operational crisis coordinator to manage the response from within the different immigration agencies at the Department of Homeland Security. Padilla is a 30-year Border Patrol veteran and was recently the head of the Rio Grande Valley Sector in Texas. His job will be different from that of the immigration or "border czar" that Trump is considering, the official said.

Closing the border com-

pletely would disrupt manufacturing supply lines and the flow of goods ranging from avocados to cars, making for a "potentially catastrophic economic impact," in the words of Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader.

Some inside the administration also worry it would only exacerbate illegal immigration. Meantime, administration officials grappled with how they might minimize the impact of a shutdown or implement less sweeping actions.

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Trump eases up on border shutdown threat



Immigrants from Central America seeking asylum board a bus, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in downtown San Antonio.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow, for example, told CNBC he's

been looking at potentially keeping truck lanes open. "We are looking at different options, particularly if you can keep those freight

lanes, the truck lanes, open," he said. As for the hundreds of thousands of tourists and workers who cross the border legally, Kudlow said, "that may be difficult."

Earlier, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders had told reporters that, while, "Eventually, it may be that it's the best decision that we close the border," the president was "not working on a specific timeline" and all options remained on the table. The Council of Economic Advisers, she said, was conducting a number of studies on the impact, and "working with the president to give him those options."

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said in an appearance on MSNBC that closing only certain entry ports, or parts of all of them, could be among the steps short of closing the entire border.

It was a shift from Trump's threat late last week to seal the whole border, and quickly.

"I am not kidding around," he said then, exasperated by the swelling numbers of migrants, thousands of whom were being released

into the U.S. because border officials had no space for them. Arrests along the southern border have skyrocketed in recent months and border agents were on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry in March, a 12-year high. More than half of those are families with children, who require extra care.

With southern border facilities near a breaking point, U.S. officials are busing many migrants hundreds of miles inland and dropping them off at bus stations and churches. Trump has mocked and vowed to end that "catch and release" practice but overwhelmed authorities saw no choice.

Responding to Trump's threats, Nielsen rushed home late Monday night from Europe, where she was attending G7 security meetings and intended to fly to the border mid-week to assess the impact of changes already made, including reassigning some 2,000 border officers assigned to check vehicles to deal with migrant crowds and new efforts to return more asylum seekers to Mexico as they wait out

their case.

Officials were hoping to have as many as 300 asylum seekers returned to Mexico per day by the end of the week near Calexico and El Paso in Texas and San Ysidro in California. Right now, only 60 a day are returned.

Nielsen has also requested volunteers from non-immigration agencies within her department and sent a letter to Congress seeking more money and detention space and broader authority to deport families faster.

The request was met with disdain by Democrats.

Even absent the extraordinary step of sealing a national border, delays at border stations have been mounting due to the personnel reassignments, Homeland Security officials said.

When the Otay Mesa, California, entry port closed for the night Monday, 150 trucks were still waiting to get into the U.S.

Shutting certain border stations or parts of them would not be unprecedented. Over the Thanksgiving holiday last year, Trump claimed he'd already "closed the border" after officials briefly closed the northbound lanes at San Ysidro, California, for several hours in the early morning to bolster security because of concerns about a potential influx of migrant caravan members.

Mexican officials announced Monday they'd pulled 338 Central American migrants —181 adults and 157 children— off five passenger buses in a southern state that borders Guatemala, and said they had detained 15 possible smugglers on immigration law violations.

But that was not unusual for Mexico, which has for years been cracking down on migration.

In 2014 then-President Enrique Peña Nieto launched a program that was described as ensuring orderly migration but in practice resulted in making it much more difficult for Central Americans to transit. □

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Chinese woman carrying malware allegedly got into Mar-a-Lago



This Nov. 23, 2018 file photo shows President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate behind mangrove trees in Palm Beach, Fla. Associated Press

By TERRY SPENCER

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

(AP) — A woman carrying two Chinese passports and a device containing computer malware lied to Secret Service agents and briefly gained admission to President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club over the weekend during his Florida visit, federal prosecutors allege in court documents. Yujing Zhang, 32, approached a Secret Service agent at a checkpoint outside the Palm Beach club early Saturday afternoon and said she was a member who wanted to use the pool, court documents said. She showed the passports as identification. Agents say she wasn't on the membership list, but a club manager thought Zhang was the daughter of a member. Agents say that when they asked Zhang if the member was her father, she did not answer definitively but they thought it might be a language barrier and admitted her. Zhang's story changed

when she got inside, agents say, telling a front desk receptionist she was there to attend the United Nations Chinese American Association event scheduled for that evening. No such event was scheduled and agents were summoned. Agent Samuel Ivanovich wrote in court documents that Zhang told him that she was there for the Chinese American event and had come early to familiarize herself with the club and take photos, again contradicting what she had said at the checkpoint. She showed him an invitation in Chinese that he could not read. He said Zhang was taken off the grounds and told she could not be there. Ivanovich said she became argumentative, so she was taken to the local Secret Service office for questioning. There, he said, it became clear Zhang speaks and reads English well. He said Zhang said she had traveled from Shanghai to attend the nonexistent Mar-a-Lago event on the invi-

tation of an acquaintance named "Charles," whom she only knew through a Chinese social media app. Ivanovich said she then denied telling the checkpoint agents she was a member wanting to swim.

Ivanovich said Zhang carried four cellphones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive containing computer malware. She did not have a swimsuit.

Zhang is charged with

making false statements to federal agents and illegally entering a restricted area. She remains in custody pending a hearing next week. Her public defender, Robert Adler, declined comment. □



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Democrats reject Trump's domestic spending cuts

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats controlling the House are proposing to cut back President Donald Trump's budget hikes for the Pentagon while significantly increasing spending on the domestic programs they favor.

Tuesday's move ramps up a battle with Trump and puts the Democratic House on a collision course with the GOP-held Senate as the two chambers consider separate paths forward on the 12 annual spending bills. Work on the legislation is sure to consume lawmakers for months.

Trump's budget promised a 5% defense budget increase to \$750 billion next year, while cutting day-to-day operating budgets for domestic agencies by \$62 billion, or 10%.

Trump's proposal is a non-starter with Democrats and Republicans alike, but there's been no progress on forging a bipartisan agreement that would be required to stave off the re-



In this Feb. 11, 2019, file photo House Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. In this Feb. 11, 2019, file photo House Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

turn of automatic budget cuts known as sequestration.

The Democratic proposal is by Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth of Kentucky and powerful Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey of New York.

The plan would boost funding for nondefense agencies to \$639 billion, up from \$605 billion now, with \$7.5 billion on top of that to cover costs for the U.S. Census. Defense would get a boost

from \$716 billion now to \$733 billion under the Democratic plan, cutting Trump's planned Pentagon increase of \$34 billion in half.

Yarmuth failed in his efforts to develop a more traditional — but nonbinding — congressional budget plan that would put lawmakers on the record on tax increases, Medicare and agency spending. Divisions among Democrats proved too difficult to overcome,

and even the stripped-down plan released Tuesday exposed rifts between party liberals and more pragmatic lawmakers.

At issue is the roughly one-third of the federal budget called discretionary spending that Congress passes each year, which is comprised of Cabinet agency budgets. Larger "mandatory" programs like Medicare and Social Security mostly run on autopilot.

Without a deal signed into law by Trump, crunching budget limits — called spending "caps" in Washington-speak — would kick in, whacking the defense budget down to \$576 billion and nondefense agencies down to \$543 billion. Lawmakers set the painful limits back in 2011 as a deficit-cutting backstop in case a budget "supercommittee" failed to come up with an alternative.

The supercommittee collapsed in failure and lawmakers have been dealing with the hangover ever since, passing three different two-year deals

to set more realistic caps. The most recent catch-all spending bill, passed in February to end a 35-day partial government shutdown, marked the end of the most recent agreement.

Republicans immediately blasted Tuesday's measure, which, unlike prior spending agreements, doesn't include offsetting spending cuts elsewhere in the budget to limit its impact on the deficit.

"House Democrats are not focused on doing a budget, nor are they focused on addressing our nation's mountainous debt," said Rep. Steve Womack of Arkansas, the top Republican on the Budget Committee. "This bill doesn't include offsets or bipartisan input — key components of past caps deals."

Both House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., would like to forge another bipartisan agreement to establish higher, more realistic spending levels. □

Panel approves subpoenas on census citizenship question

By **KEVIN FREKING**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic-controlled House panel voted Tuesday to subpoena documents and a witness related to the Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

The vote was 23-14, with Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan being the only Republican to join with Democratic lawmakers in the vote.

Democrats say they want specific documents that will determine why Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross decided to add the

question. They say the Trump administration has declined to provide those documents despite repeated requests. The vote is the latest example of the ways Democratic lawmakers are using their majority to aggressively investigate the inner workings of President Donald Trump's administration.

Ross said the decision in March 2018 to add the question was based on a Justice Department request to help it enforce the Voting Rights Act.

In response to Tuesday's vote, he said his department "has been nothing

but cooperative with the committee's expansive and detailed requests for records."

Ross said the department has turned over 11,500 pages of documents and noted that he testified at a recent hearing. But Democrats countered that many of the pages were so heavily redacted that they provided little or no useful information.

"We don't want thousands of pieces of paper. We want the specific priority documents we asked for — unredacted and in full," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the panel's

Democratic chairman.

Democratic lawmakers said Ross considered adding the citizenship question from his first days in the administration. They fear it will reduce census participation in immigrant-heavy communities, harming representation and access to federal dollars. They want more information about the back-and-forth between administration officials before the decision was made.

Trump recently tweeted the census will "be meaningless" without the citizenship question.

Republicans said the cen-

sus investigation is an example of "partisan oversight of the Trump administration."

"Why don't Democrats want to know whether you are a citizen or not?" asked Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the top Republican on the panel.

Two federal judges have already ruled against the question and the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the issue before survey forms are printed.

It would be the first time since 1950 that the full, once-a-decade census asked people about their citizenship. □



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2nd Texas chemical fire in about 2 weeks kills worker

By JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A tank holding a flammable chemical caught fire at a Texas plant Tuesday, killing one worker, critically injuring two others and sending panicked employees fleeing over a fence to safety. Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez confirmed the fatality in a tweet and said the two injured had been taken by helicopter to a hospital. The two injured were in critical condition, said Rachel Moreno, spokeswoman for the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

Authorities shut down a roadway near Tuesday's fire at a KMCO chemical plant in Crosby, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north-east of Houston, Gonzalez said. Fire crews battled the blaze for about 5 ½ hours before they extinguished it, according to the fire marshal's office.

All residents within a one-mile radius of the plant were ordered to stay indoors or shelter in place for about four hours. It was not immediately known how many residents were affected by the shelter in place. Crosby has about 2,300 residents. The fire sent a large black plume of smoke into the air. The fire erupted about two weeks after a March 17 blaze at a petrochemical storage facility in Deer Park, located about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Crosby. That fire at a facility owned by Intercontinental Terminals Company burned for days and triggered air quality warnings. Crosby also is where an Arkema chemi-



This photo taken by the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office shows the KMCO Chemical plant Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Crosby, Texas.

cal plant was inundated by water during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Some chemicals eventually caught fire and partially exploded.

"It is disturbing and it is problematic that we're seeing this incident in a facility, especially on the heels of" the fire in Deer Park, said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, the county's top administrator.

Samantha Galle lives less than a mile away from the plant and said she heard and felt an explosion Tuesday.

"It shook everybody's house around here," the 23-year-old said.

Gonzalez said a transfer line at the KMCO plant ignited in the area of a tank of isobutylene — a flammable colorless gas used

in the production of high octane gasoline — which then caught on fire.

The fire spread to a nearby warehouse where dry chemicals are stored.

Moreno said the Environmental Protection Agency has been testing air samples from the area around the plant and has not found any harmful readings.

Worker Justin Trahan told Houston television station KPRC that he heard "some panic on the radio" but no alarms sounding before the plant caught fire.

"We didn't think anything of it — we didn't think it was anything severe," he said.

Trahan said employees began running after "the tank ignited."

He said that he and other colleagues had to jump

over a fence to escape because all the gates were locked.

Pilar Davis, a product manager with KMCO, said none of the emergency evacuation points at the plant were blocked during the fire.

At a news conference late Tuesday afternoon, John C. Foley, chief executive of KMCO, said a cause of the blaze is still being determined. "We will conduct a thorough investigation ... and take steps to ensure this doesn't happen again," Foley said.

Davis said the fire initially ignited with isobutylene but was fueled by ethanol and ethyl acrylate. All three are chemicals and solvents used to make fuel additives at the plant.

Davis declined to com-

ment on the worker who was killed and the two who were injured, only saying they were part of KMCO's operations department.

KMCO, which was founded in 1975, is a chemical company that offers coolant and brake fluid products and chemicals for the oil-field industry.

The Crosby, Sheldon and Channelview school districts asked students and staff to shelter in place at all their campuses. But later Tuesday afternoon, all three districts lifted those orders to shelter in place.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said that it has dispatched emergency response personnel to conduct an initial assessment of the fire.

Foley said his company's number one priority "is safety and compliance."

"We have a long track record of investing in the, people, the systems and the assets to operate safely," he said.

KMCO has had environmental violations in the past, according to a review of records.

In 2016, KMCO's corporate agents pleaded guilty to a federal criminal charge of violating the Clean Air Act. A plea agreement document stated that a plant employee made false entries in logs of air testing of tanks that were known to be leaking chemicals. Another employee then used those falsified logs to submit reports to the federal and state environmental authorities. The document says the violation went on between 2008 and 2012. □

CBD is getting buzz, but does it work? And is it legal?

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON and CANDICE CHOI**

Associated Press

With CBD showing up everywhere, U.S. regulators announced Tuesday they are exploring ways the marijuana extract could be used legally in foods, dietary supplements and cosmetics. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it will hold a public hearing May 31 to gather more information on the science, manufacturing and sale of cannabis compounds such as CBD. In the meantime, it issued more warning letters to companies for making unapproved health claims about CBD products.

Products containing CBD are already in stores and sold online, so it's easy to believe there must be something special about the ingredient. But the claims are largely unproven and quality control standards don't exist.

WHAT IS CBD?

CBD is one of more than 100 compounds found in marijuana. It's extracted using alcohol or carbon dioxide in factories. It's added to oils, mixed into creams and lotions and sold in candies and liquid drops.

Widely sold online, CBD now is going mainstream with major retailers offering salves and balms for the skin. Prices range from \$12 to \$150 an ounce at high-end shops.

CBD often comes from a cannabis plant known as hemp, which is defined by the U.S. government as having less than 0.3% THC. That's important because THC is what causes marijuana's mind-altering effect.

CBD doesn't get people high, although it may be calming. Keep in mind some CBD products may contain THC, whether or not the label says so.

People drug tested for work, addiction programs or because they take prescription opioids should take note: CBD products have caused people to fail urine drug screens.

IS IT A MIRACLE CURE?

If you believe the hype, CBD treats pain, relieves anxiety and both helps you



In this Friday, Jan. 4, 2018 file photo, a worker adds CBD oil to a drink at a coffee shop in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

sleep and keeps you focused.

Most claims are based on studies in rats, mice or in test tubes. Some human research has been done, but in small numbers of people. One exception: For two rare seizure disorders, the evidence for CBD was strong enough to convince the FDA to approve GW Pharmaceutical's drug Epidiolex, which contains a purified form.

The FDA announced Tuesday it has sent warning letters to three companies marketing products with what outgoing Commissioner Scott Gottlieb called "egregious, over-the-line claims" for CBD's effects on cancer, Alzheimer's disease, fibromyalgia and drug addiction. Among the cited examples: "CBD successfully stopped cancer cells" in cervical cancer. Gottlieb said the agency "won't tolerate this kind of deceptive marketing to vulnerable patients."

Dr. Young Lee, CEO of Advanced Spine and Pain LLC (doing business as Relievus), said his company had taken down its website after receiving an FDA warning letter.

C.J. Montgomery of Nutra Pure LLC of Vancouver, Washington, said the com-

pany has revised some of wording on its website to try to address the FDA's concerns.

PotNetwork Holdings Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, did not immediately return calls and emails seeking comment on the warning letters.

Only drugs that have been reviewed by the FDA as safe and effective can make claims that they treat or prevent diseases or medical conditions. Many CBD producers attempt to sidestep the issue by using only vague language about general health and well-being.

ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Scant research means not much is known about side effects either. In epilepsy research, CBD changed the way the body processed other drugs. That suggests CBD could interact with medications in ways we still don't know about.

The most common side effects of the CBD drug Epidiolex include sleepiness, decreased appetite, diarrhea, increases in liver enzymes, exhaustion, rash and infections. FDA's Gottlieb noted Tuesday the potential for liver injury and other risks can be handled with medical supervision but less is known about

how that would be managed without oversight. And there are questions about overlap if multiple CBD products are used.

IS IT LEGAL?

For now, the agency has said CBD is not allowed as an ingredient in food, drinks or dietary supplements.

In stating its position, the FDA cited a provision of the law prohibiting food makers from using active drug ingredients or those still undergoing substantial research. But the agency doesn't have the resources to police all the CBD products that are already available, said Marc Scheinerson, a former FDA official.

"They're not going to pull a thousand products from the market," he said.

The FDA's authority is over interstate commerce, and local officials have taken differing approaches. In New York, Los Angeles and elsewhere, officials are warning eateries to stop selling it in food and drinks. Maine passed a law allowing it in foods and other products in the state.

Skin creams and cosmetics may be on safer footing with the FDA, but that too remains uncertain, said Camille Gourdet of RTI International, a nonprofit research institute in Durham,

North Carolina. Though cosmetics aren't subject to premarket approval by the FDA, they could run afoul of regulations if they make specific health claims.

Marijuana itself is illegal under federal law; most states that have legalized it allow marijuana-infused foods and candies, called edibles.

ARE CBD LABELS ACCURATE?

What you buy may contain much less CBD than the label states — or much more. It may include more THC than you want and it may be contaminated with mold or pesticides. Ask to see testing reports.

A 2017 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found 70% of CBD products were mislabeled. Researchers used an independent lab to test 84 products from 31 companies.

"You're really flying by the seat of your pants when you buy this stuff," said author Marcel Bonn-Miller of University of Pennsylvania.

A product labeled as containing 100 milligrams of CBD may only have 5 milligrams or it may have 200, said Bonn-Miller, now an adviser for a company that sells CBD and other cannabis products. He did not work in the industry when he did the research.

"I wouldn't trust any of it until I knew independently it was safe," Bonn-Miller said.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

CBD research is planned or underway for cancer, autism, diabetic neuropathy, fibromyalgia, chronic pain, alcoholism with PTSD and psychiatric conditions. Results will take years, but some people aren't waiting.

"They are vulnerable and really hoping to feel better," said Karen Hande, a nurse practitioner at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in Nashville.

She became an expert in CBD because so many of her cancer patients were trying it. She tells them the evidence isn't enough to back the claims, but "they want to believe something is going to work." □

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Florida man says pipe bombs weren't meant to hurt anybody

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Florida man who pleaded guilty to sending pipe bombs to CNN and prominent critics of President Donald Trump says he thinks he was misunderstood at his guilty plea.

Cesar Sayoc said in a letter to a judge that was made public Tuesday that it was never his intent to harm anyone.

U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff asked prosecutors and defense lawyers whether Sayoc's comments in his March 23 letter will impact a guilty plea he entered two weeks ago regarding the fall mailings. In an order, Rakoff gave lawyers a week to comment.

During the plea proceeding, Rakoff asked Sayoc if he knew the devices would hurt anyone.

In his handwritten letter, Sayoc said his lawyer told him to say yes.

"In my heart I wanted to say no," he said. "I answered under extreme emotional circumstances."

Sayoc noted that he answered the question just after crying as he read a statement describing his crimes. He said he was returned to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where he reconsidered his answer.

"I realized that it was the wrong thing to say, because under no circumstances my intent was to hurt or harm anyone. The intention was to only intimidate and scare," he wrote. Sayoc, 57, could face life in



This Aug. 30, 2015, file photo released by the Broward County Sheriff's office shows Cesar Sayoc in Miami.

Associated Press

prison at sentencing Sept. 12 after pleading guilty to various explosives-related crimes in a deal with prosecutors. If convicted at trial, he could have faced a mandatory life sentence. Sayoc admitted sending 16 rudimentary bombs — none of which detonated — to targets including Hillary Clinton, former Vice President Joe Biden, several members of Congress, former President Barack Obama and actor Robert De Niro. Devices were also mailed to CNN offices in New York and Atlanta. The bombs began turning up over a five-day stretch weeks before the midterms. They were mailed to addresses in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, California, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, Georgia.

Sayoc was arrested in late October at a Florida auto parts store. He had been living in a van plastered with Trump stickers and images of Trump opponents with crosshairs over their faces. □

Police: Business owner, 3 employees killed in N. Dakota

By BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Police on Tuesday identified the owner of a North Dakota property management business and three employees as the people whose bodies were found there a day earlier, and said authorities don't yet know who killed them.

Police Chief Jason Ziegler released the names of the four victims, but offered few additional details about a mystery that has gripped the area since authorities found the bodies Monday morning at RJR Maintenance and Management in Mandan, just across the Missouri River from the state capital of Bismarck.

Ziegler did not say how the victims were killed. He said police were awaiting autopsy results and that authorities did not recover a weapon. He also would not say whether police have identified a potential motive. Yet he remained adamant that authorities do not believe the public is at risk, "based upon what we know at the crime scene." "This incident was specific to the victims," Ziegler said. "We do not believe the public is in danger."

Ziegler identified the dead as owner Robert Fakler, 52; and employees Adam Fuehrer, 42, Lois Cobb, 45, and William Cobb, 50.

The Cobbs were married. Lois Cobb's daughter, Briann Miller, of Girard, Illinois, said her mom and stepdad had moved to North Dakota six years ago from Illinois and recently bought their dream home. She said authorities gave her no details on how they died. "I just know that it was an attack," Miller said. "I don't know how it happened, what it happened with. I'm left in the dark still. None of this makes any sense. All I know is my parents are gone."

Lois Cobb was an account specialist and William Cobb a maintenance supervisor, according to the company's website. Fuehrer worked in maintenance, according to his sister, Natascha Towne, who spoke briefly to The Associated Press on Monday when she showed up at the business in search of answers about his status. She could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday. Clients and friends of Fakler described him as cheerful and hard working.



Police vehicles are seen in the backside of RJR Maintenance and Management, a property management company, Monday, April 1, 2019, Mandan, N.D.

Associated Press

"I can't imagine that he had any enemies," said Ann Farrell, who fought back tears as she talked about a conversation she had with him Sunday night. He was "very much in a good mood," the Bismarck woman said.

She her brother, Rolf Eggers, were both clients and friends of Fakler's.

"I wish I could turn back time and warn him," Eggers said. Ziegler said investigators were reviewing video from the scene and surrounding businesses and that "we've got a lot of good leads, a lot of good information." He appealed for the public's help, and said authorities planned to re-interview more than 30 people.

"A lot of the questions ... we just don't have answers right now," Ziegler said. "We've got to be able to do our investigation and put these puzzles together." Miller said her mother and stepdad never gave any indication to her of any problems at work. She last spoke with her mom on Saturday.

"They talked so highly of the Bismarck and Mandan area, how beautiful it was, how amazing the people were," Miller said. "They were so nice to everybody, too. It's just unimaginable."

Mandan has about 22,000 residents, while neighboring Bismarck has about 73,000. Mandan had not had a homicide since November 2016, and had only three in the past six years. In that time period, neighboring Bismarck had seven homicides.

The RJR building is somewhat isolated despite its location in a business district near a busy main road known as The Strip. A large empty lot sits in the front, a golf course in back and a soccer complex to one side. □

Canada's ex-attorney general ousted from Trudeau's caucus

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ousted Canada's former attorney general and another ex-minister from the Liberal party caucus Tuesday amid a scandal that has rocked his government in an election year.

Trudeau cited repeated questioning of his leadership as well as the fact that former attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould publicized a secretly recorded conversation she had with Michael Wernick, Canada's top civil servant. Trudeau called that "unconscionable."

Trudeau also ousted Jane Philpott, a former Cabinet minister who stepped down from her role after she said she lost confidence in how the government has handled the affair.

Both Wilson-Raybould and Philpott had remained as members of Trudeau's party in Parliament after resigning from Cabinet but kept making remarks that damaged the prime minister and the party.

The two were two high-profile women ministers in Trudeau's Cabinet, half of which are women. Wilson-Raybould was Canada's first indigenous justice minister.

Trudeau and Liberal lawmakers met Tuesday evening to discuss Wilson-Raybould and Philpott.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during a news conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Wilson-Raybould tweeted that Trudeau had removed her and she will not be a Liberal candidate in the fall election.

"What I can say is that I hold my head high & that I can look myself in the mirror knowing I did what I was required to do and what needed to be done based on principles & values that must always transcend party," she tweeted. "I have no regrets."

I spoke truth as I will continue to do."

Wilson-Raybould believes she was demoted from her role as attorney general and justice minister to veterans' affairs minister

in January because she didn't give in to pressure to enter into a remediation agreement with a Canadian company accused of bribing officials in Libya.

That potential solution would avoid a potential criminal conviction that would bar engineering giant SNC-Lavalin from receiving any federal government business for a decade.

The company is a major employer with 9,000 employees in Canada and more than 50,000 worldwide.

The scandal has led to multiple resignations, including Gerry Butts, Trudeau's top

aide and best friend. And it has damaged the party for eight weeks.

In a letter released earlier Tuesday, Wilson-Raybould pleaded with her colleagues to remain and acknowledged they are enraged but said she was "trying to help protect the Prime Minister and the government from a horrible mess."

"Now I know many of you are angry, hurt, and frustrated. And frankly so am I, and I can only speak for myself. I am angry, hurt, and frustrated because I feel and believe I was upholding the values that we all committed to," Wilson-

Raybould wrote to colleagues earlier Tuesday.

Trudeau has been on the defensive since the Globe and Mail newspaper reported Feb. 7 via sources that Trudeau's staff put pressure on Wilson-Raybould. She denied she was the source of the story, writing "I am not the one who made it public."

The secret recording Wilson-Raybould made public shows Wernick telling Wilson-Raybould that Trudeau "is determined, quite firm" in finding a way to avoid a prosecution that could put 9,000 jobs at risk.

Philpott said neither she nor Wilson-Raybould initiated the crisis now facing Trudeau and the party.

"Rather than acknowledge the obvious — that a range of individuals had inappropriately attempted to pressure the former Attorney General in relation to a prosecutorial decision — and apologize for what occurred, a decision was made to attempt to deny the obvious — to attack Jody Wilson-Raybould's credibility and attempt to blame her," Philpott said in posting on social media.

"That approach now appears to be focused on whether Jody Wilson-Raybould should have audio-taped the Clerk instead of the circumstances that prompted Jody Wilson-Raybould to feel compelled to do so." □

EU's Juncker concerned over Italy's slowing economy

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Tuesday he is concerned over Italy's slowing economy, and expressed hope that the government would take action to accelerate growth.

"Italian authorities must make supplementary efforts to keep growth alive in Italy," Juncker said at a joint press conference with Premier Giuseppe Conte.

Juncker noted that when the EU approved Italy's controversial budget expanding social spending, the commission projected



European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker and Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte, right, hug each other at the end of a press conference following their meeting, at Palazzo Chigi, in Rome, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Italian growth at 1.2% for 2019. Italy has since fallen into a technical recession, and various bodies have lowered growth estimates for the year, including Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which says Italy's economy is likely to contract 0.2% this year.

In its report this week, the OECD called for bold reforms to tackle low productivity as well as social and regional inequalities.

The OECD was especially critical of the basic income scheme backed by the 5-Star Movement, saying it

risks weakening work incentives and creating poverty traps given the relatively high payments compared with similar schemes in other member states.

Conte said that his government this week would approve a decree "with measures that will give impulse to growth." But he also said that the slowdown was expected, "and that is why we conceived of a budget that wants to follow expansive but responsible policies, approving measures that the country needed for too long to re-establish social equality." □



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Pope: Women have 'legitimate claims' for justice, equality

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis said in a document released Tuesday that women have "legitimate claims" to seek more equality in the Catholic Church, but he stopped short of endorsing recent calls from his own bishops to give women leadership roles.

In the text, Francis also told young adults they should try to help priests at risk for sexually abusing minors in what a Vatican official said was a great act of trust the pope has for today's youth to help "priests in difficulty." Francis issued the document, known as an apostolic exhortation, in response to an October 2018 meeting of the world's bishops on better ministering to today's young Catholics.

The synod took place against the Church's clergy sex abuse crisis and included demands for greater women's rights. The bishops' final recommendations called the need for women to hold positions of responsibility and decision-making in the church "a duty of justice."

In the new document reflecting at length on the October meeting, Francis did not echo that sweeping conclusion. Instead, he wrote that a church that listens to young people must be attentive to women's "legitimate claims" for equality and justice, as well as better train both men and women with leadership potential.

"A living church can look back on history and acknowledge a fair share of male authoritarianism, domination, various forms of enslavement, abuse and sexist violence," Francis said. He continued: "With this outlook, she can support the call to respect



In this Friday, March 29, 2019 file photo, Pope Francis attends an audience with participants of a course on the Internal Forum promoted by the Apostolic Penitentiary Court, in the Pope Paul VI hall, at the Vatican.

women's rights, and offer convinced support for greater reciprocity between males and females, while not agreeing with everything some feminist groups propose."

An organizer of last year's synod, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, was asked at a news conference Tuesday about Francis' lack of reference to women in leadership positions and the need to welcome gay Catholics. Baldisseri replied that Francis couldn't rewrite everything from the final synod recommendations.

Francis' new document, a 299-paragraph booklet entitled "Christ is Alive," covers a wide range of issues confronting young people today. In it, he notes that many feel alienated from the church because of its sexual and financial scandals, and are suffering themselves from untold forms of exploitation, conflict and despair.

A hefty chunk of the docu-

ment focuses on both the promises and perils of the digital world and dedicates ample space to the plight of migrants. It uses millennial lingo, calling the Virgin Mary an "influencer" and describing relations with God in computing terms: "hard disk," "archive" and "deleting." Francis wrote that he was inspired by all the reflections from the bishops' synod and refers readers to the 2018 recommendations. He said he wanted to use his new text to "summarize those proposals I considered most significant."

Throughout, he urges young people to be protagonists in rejuvenating the church. On the topic of child sex abuse and cover-ups in the church, the pope called for the "eradication" of traditions that allowed child sex abuse to take place and for a challenge to how church leaders handled cases with "irresponsibility and lack of transparency."

He urged young people to call out a priest who seems at risk of seeking affection from children and youth, "and remind him of his commitment to God and his people."

Asked if that message wasn't putting young people in potentially dangerous positions with potential predators, another synod organizer, Monsignor Fabio Fabene, said it was the contrary. Such terms have long been used by church officials to minimize the criminality of priests and bishops who rape and molest children.

Asked why there was no reference to Francis' frequent call for "zero tolerance" for abuse, Baldisseri said the pope doesn't need to repeat the phrase in every document.

"You don't need to say 'zero tolerance' every time you go to lunch and dinner," he said.

The document acknowledges the importance of

sexuality in the development of young people. As with the roles of women in the Catholic Church, Francis did not repeat the bishops' wording in recommendations for deeper anthropological, theological and pastoral study on sexuality and sexual inclinations. The term "homosexuality" appears once in Francis' text. Women have often complained they have second-class status in the church. History's first Latin American pope has vowed to change that, but he has done little that is concrete and counts no women among his own advisers.

Just last week, the founder of the Vatican's women's magazine resigned with members of the editorial board, citing what she said was a climate of distrust and de-legitimization in the Vatican. The editor of the newspaper that distributes the magazine denied efforts to undermine the women. Nine nuns were invited to participate at the October synod on Catholic youth, alongside 267 cardinals, bishops and priests. None of the women had the right to vote on the final recommendations. The nuns publicly made clear their displeasure before, during and after the meeting. The recommendations advocated making women a greater presence in church structures at all levels while respecting church doctrine that the priesthood remains for men only. The Women's Ordination Conference, which advocates for a female priesthood, blasted the pope's document for ignoring the synod's recommendation to make the whole church aware of the "urgency of an inescapable change" to put women in decision-making roles. □

Selfie diplomacy: North Macedonia, Greek leaders break ice

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES
COSTAS KANTOURIS

Associated Press

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (AP) — The prime ministers of Greece and North Macedonia broke the ice and engaged in selfie diplomacy Tuesday during the first ever official visit by a Greek leader to the neighboring country following decades of strained relations over a name dispute. North Macedonia Prime Minister Zoran Zaev held up a cellphone while standing beside Greek counterpart Alexis Tsipras, snapping the historic selfies outside the main government building in the capital, Skopje.

The former Yugoslav republic officially changed its name earlier this year from Macedonia to North Macedonia, settling a dispute over its name with Greece that lasted nearly three decades.

"We have lost a lot of time and now we must rapidly catch up," Tsipras told reporters at a joint news conference. "We want to build a strong bond of trust and stability."

"When I used to take a plane to Europe, the pilot would avoid the airspace



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, left, embraces his North Macedonian counterpart Zoran Zaev, during a joint news conference and after their meeting in Skopje, North Macedonia, on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

of what was the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Now we will no longer have this nonsense. We might fly around here just to say hello."

Leaders and ministers from the two countries signed multiple friendship agreements to establish embassies in both capitals, ease trade barriers and for the Greek military to police North Macedonia's air-

space. Tsipras traveled to Skopje with 10 Greek Cabinet ministers and more than 100 business representatives. Speaking at a forum on economic cooperation between the two countries later Tuesday, Zaev said Greece was North Macedonia's second-biggest trade partner in 2018 behind Germany. He added that since the name deal was signed, bilateral trade

has increased more than 20%. North Macedonia is due to become the next member of NATO after Greece dropped its objections. Both Tsipras and Zaev faced strong domestic opposition to their agreement reached last summer to normalize relations, resolving the emotive issue tied in the two countries to national identity. Greek opponents of the agreement

Associated Press

staged several large rallies in Athens and other cities to try and press the government to abandon the deal. Greece opposed the use of the name Macedonia, arguing that it posed a threat to its own administrative region of Macedonia and well as the region's ancient history and heritage that includes the legacy of the warrior king Alexander the Great. Distrust among Balkan nations over borders, ethnic minorities, and national narratives dates back more than a century when countries in the region fought the Ottoman Empire and each other to establish and expand new nations. That hostility was maintained by wars that only ended in the late 1990s following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

Western governments enthusiastically backed the deal, wary of rival influence in the Balkans by Russia, which views NATO's expansion as a threat.

"It is a milestone to be leaving all these difficulties behind," North Macedonia's Zaev said. "We have showed Europe and the world that with bold decisions anything is possible." □

Iran says US sanctions impede flood rescue operations

By NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's foreign minister says sanctions imposed by the Trump administration last year have hampered rescue efforts in flood-stricken areas of the country, where nearly 60 people have died since mid-March, while the U.S. blamed the disaster on the Iranian government's own "mismanagement." Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted late Monday that America's "maximum pressure" policy on Iran "is impeding aid efforts by #IranianRedCrescent to all communities devastated by unprecedented floods." He said the sanctions have prevented Iran from acquiring badly needed equipment, including relief helicopters. "This isn't just economic warfare; it's



In this Monday, April 1, 2019 photo, houses are covered by floodwaters in the town of Mamoulan, in the western province of Lorestan, Iran.

economic TERRORISM," he tweeted.

U.S. President Donald Trump restored crippling sanctions on Iran last year after withdrawing from Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The sanctions have worsened an economic cri-

sis that has ignited sporadic anti-government protests over the past year.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday the floods show the "level of Iranian regime mismanagement in urban planning and in emergency

preparedness." "The regime blames outside entities when, in fact, it is their mismanagement that has led to this disaster," he said. "The United States stands ready to assist and contribute to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which would then direct the money through the Iranian Red Crescent for relief." In a tweet late Tuesday, Zarif called Pompeo's remarks "fake news" and urged the U.S. to accept responsibility for economic pressures on Iranians.

Iran has seen major flooding for the past two weeks in hundreds of villages, towns and cities in the western half of the country, where in some places an emergency situation has been declared.

The spokesman for the

emergency department said 57 people have died in the flooding since mid-March. Mojtaba Khaledi was quoted by the state-run IRNA news agency on Tuesday as saying another 478 have been injured, with 19 still hospitalized.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi told IRNA that because of the U.S. sanctions, all foreign bank accounts of the Iranian Red Crescent are closed and no foreign-based entity is able to transfer funds for those suffering from the floods. Local authorities in the stricken areas have repeatedly asked for more helicopters to reach remote locations. Iranian state media said Tuesday that dozens of military and Iranian Red Crescent helicopters are taking part in the relief operation. □

Thai army chief sends warning to critics of the monarchy

By GRANT PECK

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's influential army chief warned Tuesday that the military will fight any moves that threaten the country's system of constitutional monarchy with the king as head of state, in an apparent threat directed at supporters of a new anti-junta party. "The army does the army's duty, which is to protect, maintain, and defend the institutions of nation, religion, and monarchy," Gen. Apirat Kongsompong said at a news conference. Apirat appeared to be targeting intellectuals backing the Future Forward Party, which according to preliminary figures ran a strong third in the March 24 general election.

Apirat's words "come as an intimidating knock-out punch against any Thai political critics of Thailand's system of government," said Paul Chambers, a lecturer in political science at Naresuan University in northern Thailand. "But more explicitly, the words seem to attack Future Forward Party, whose leaders have seemed particularly critical of the junta and military, and who in the past discussed the monarchy." Future Forward Party co-



In this Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, file photo, Thai army chief Gen. Apirat Kongsompong reviews the guard of honor during the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day ceremony at a military base in Bangkok, Thailand.

founder Piyabutr Saenakornkul used to be part of the Nitirat Group, legal scholars who sought reforms in Thailand's lese majeste law, which carries stiff prison terms for people found guilty of defaming the monarchy.

Apirat suggested that scholars who have studied abroad may have lost their understanding of the "Thai-

style democratic system." Pitabutr received his master's and doctoral degree in France, and other prominent members of the Nitirat Group studied law in Germany. "Don't introduce the leftist views you learned that made you all pretentious," Apirat said.

The military-backed Palang Pracharath Party won the most popular votes in the

March polls, and its candidate, Prayuth Chan-ocha, is likely to become prime minister, but could end up with the opposition holding a majority of seats in the House of Representatives. Prayuth led a 2014 coup that ousted an elected government and since then has served as junta chief and prime minister. Supporters of the Future

Forward Party believe the courts and the Election Commission may try to disqualify some of its winning candidates, or even the entire party, ahead of the release of official election results on May 9.

Thai social media since the election has been buzzing with postings seeking to discredit the Future Forward Party.

One recently circulated video shows excerpts of a lecture Piyabutr gave in 2013, when he taught law at Bangkok's Thammasat University. He has said it was to explain the relationship of democracy to monarchies in political systems worldwide. But it has been cast by his party's opponents as criticism of Thailand's monarchy.

An obscure right-wing group, Political Civic Group, said it has filed a complaint with the Election Commission about Piyabutr's statements, claiming they violated election law. He has denied the allegations against him and charged the video was taken out of context to undermine him. Apirat also criticized activists who charge that the Election Commission mismanaged the polls and are seeking to impeach its members. □

Firefighters contain fire in China's mountains where 30 died

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Firefighters on Tuesday contained a blaze high in the rugged forested mountains of western China that claimed the lives of 30 colleagues, in one of the worst disasters for the emergency services in recent years.

Open flames had been extinguished and only a few areas continued to emit smoke with no further threat of the fire spreading, state media reported.

The bodies of the dead firefighters were transported to the town of Xichang in Sichuan province, where residents presented flowers as a sign of mourning and respect. Some of the bodies could only be identified through DNA, state broad-



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a fire-fighting helicopter leaves on a mission to fight a forest fire in the Muli County in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture from an airport in Xichang, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Monday, April 1, 2019.

caster CCTV reported. Three helicopters brought in reinforcements to fully extinguish the blaze.

Changing winds Sunday apparently trapped 27 firefighters and three helpers who were battling the

blaze in a remote area at an altitude of 3,800 meters (12,500 feet), according to the Ministry of Emergency Management. Despite attempts at a rescue, all 30 were confirmed dead on Monday afternoon.

The Xinhua News Agency quoted firefighting official Xie Shi'en as saying wind, dry air and combustible material create an explosive effect where the men were working.

The fire advanced so quickly that trees on the ridge were consumed within seconds, surviving firefighter Wang Xin told Xinhua.

"All of a sudden, we heard a huge explosive sound from the ridge and saw a wall of flame rocket up. It was as if someone trig-

gered a huge flamethrower," Wang said.

Most of the dead were in their 20s, although at least two were teenagers, according to state media reports. One had recently married.

China has been battling forest fires in recent weeks in various parts of the vast country, including on the outskirts of Beijing, fed by dry weather and high winds across many northern areas.

The death toll appeared to be the worst among Chinese firefighters since 2015, when an explosion at a chemical warehouse in the port of Tianjin killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and other first responders. □

Fate in limbo, many Nicaraguan exiles struggle in Costa Rica

By **MARIO NEGRINI**

MARIA VERZA

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)

— Back in Nicaragua, she owned her own home and made enough as an elementary substitute teacher and lawyers' assistant to eke out a stable, if not luxurious, life.

Now she spends her days on the streets in and around Costa Rica's capital begging for spare change and clutching a can decorated with Nicaragua's blue-and-white flag, an unmistakable reminder to pedestrians of the political turbulence that has claimed hundreds of lives in her native country.

"I never did this before," said the 53-year-old woman, who asked to be identified only by her nickname, "the teacher," for fear of retaliation against loved ones back home. "We were modest," she said, "but life (there) is cheaper."

The fate of the estimated 50,000 Nicaraguans who've fled violence and persecution for exile in Costa Rica over the last year is a central point in fledgling peace talks between Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's government and the opposition, which is demanding guarantees for their safe return.

But while negotiators in Managua haggle over that and other thorny issues with little progress, many exiles are struggling. Some formerly middle-class citizens are having trouble putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their heads, while others from the working class are reduced to living in near-indigence.

The most vulnerable among them have become "the forgotten among the forgotten," said Esteban Beltran of Amnesty International Spain, who recently visited Costa Rica to document their plight.

Like many others, the teacher fled during the so-called Operation Cleanup launched by Ortega last July, which the United Nations has termed a "witch hunt" aimed at suppressing

dissent. In her hometown of Diriamba, paramilitary forces aligned with Orte-

ga isn't nearly enough and like others she relies heavily on aid from churches and help

tracking access to basic services they have a right to and may not be aware

scheduled for 2021, another central opposition demand.

So there's plenty of skepticism among exiles that Ortega officials will abide by another deal struck Friday: that Nicaraguans who fled can return "with full guarantees of personal and family security."

"In Nicaragua we say about Ortega, 'You may sign, but you'll never follow through,'" said Cesar Gutierrez, 63.

Gutierrez is a regular at gatherings where he and fellow exiles plan demonstrations, coordinate with government opponents back in Nicaragua, share news of home gleaned from the internet and gossip about the latest from the talks.

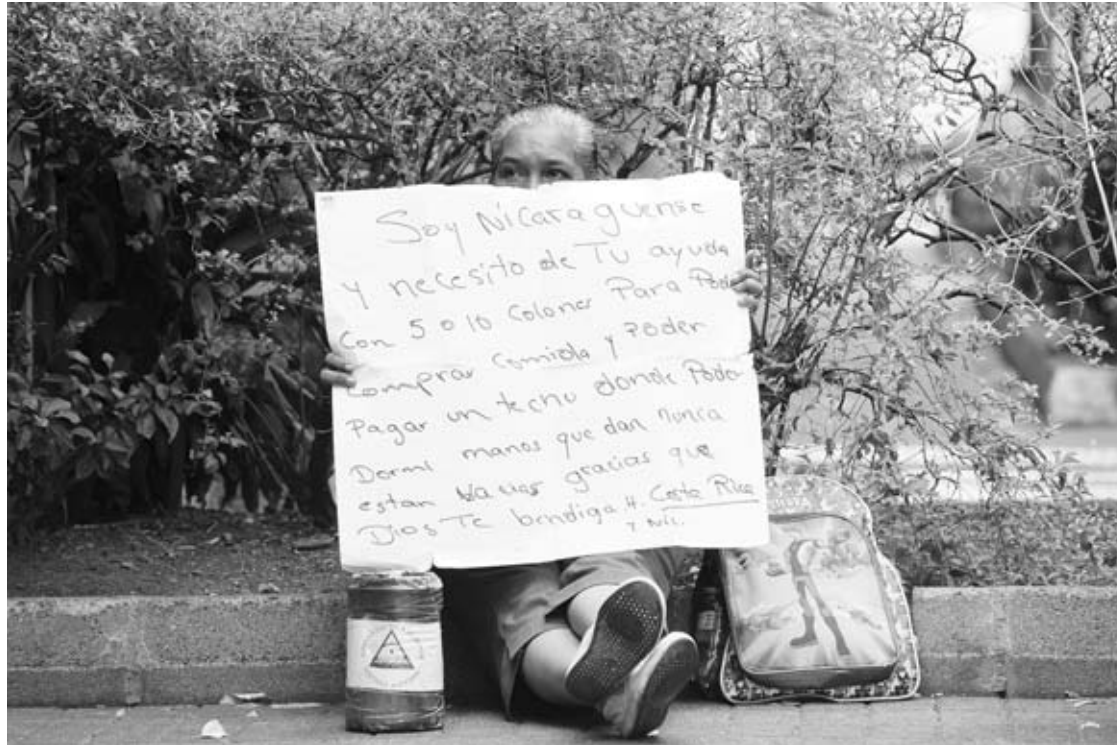
"The disarming of the paramilitaries" is a must, Gutierrez added, "because otherwise they are going to bully us. Then it will be the moment to think about how we return."

Gutierrez, a former fighter in the revolution that first brought Ortega to power in 1979, later soured on the president, joined the protests and fled after receiving threats against his life and home. He, too, is living in La Carpio, taken in by a family friend who is letting him sleep in the living room of her modest home where seven others also live.

He scrapes by selling homemade cheese to fellow exiles after leaving his family back home and his businesses, a bakery and some billiard halls.

At least 168 Nicaraguan exiles are wanted due to their political activities, opposition leaders say.

Among them is Sadie Rivas, who slipped across the border in August after being accused of a laundry list of crimes more associated with a narco-kingpin than a 19-year-old college student: torture, terrorism, money laundering, drug trafficking, weapons possession, destruction of public property, disturbing the peace. Such accusations are typical in cases against protesters, and both they and international observers call them groundless. □



In this March 29, 2019 photo, Nicaraguan exile, who wishes to only be identified by her nickname "La Profe", Spanish for "the teacher", begs for spare change in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

Associated Press

ga's government left a trail of dead and wounded, she said.

Her offense was feeding and supporting student protesters. One day as she brought them breakfast, gunshots rang out. "I don't know how I'm alive," she said. "They were grabbing everybody."

The only thing to do was run.

Like many exiles she ended up in La Carpio, a shantytown on the outskirts of the Costa Rican capital, San Jose, where the number of Nicaraguans has swelled since the protests began last April, though nobody's sure by how much.

It's a neighborhood of cement and sheet-metal homes where sleeping quarters and a latrine often occupy a single space. Water is scarce, trash piles up in the streets and sewage flows in open channels. Even before the latest influx of Nicaraguan refugees, half of the estimated 18,000 people in the neighborhood lived in inadequate homes and 70 percent of households subsisted on less than \$330 per month, according to a government study last year. The \$3 that the teacher is able to beg on a bad day

from neighbors who are in equally precarious situations. Still lacking a work permit after eight months, she's sleeping on the floor of a rented, 300-square-foot (30-square-meter) house along with her two adult children, two grandchildren and six others from another family. On a recent day the only things in the pantry were a packet of pasta, a Nicaraguan flag and a Bible.

While asylum-seekers are guaranteed the right to work, the sheer number of Nicaraguans has overwhelmed Costa Rica's system for processing such requests. Authorities are able to handle only about 600 asylum applications per week, and securing work permits involves yet another bureaucratic hurdle. So far only 8,000 have secured work permits compared with the nearly 29,000 who have received credentials as asylum-seekers. More than 20,000 are awaiting appointments.

Last week Amnesty urged the Costa Rican government to put an aid plan in place for Nicaraguan refugees with help from the international community, including identifying the most vulnerable and fast-

of. Costa Rica's government said the plan is ready and simply awaiting presidential sign-off.

Ortega's government did not respond to a request for comment. Ortega officials have had little to say about exiles, though in a recent speech the president compared all opposition supporters to Cain, the biblical figure who killed his brother Abel out of envy.

Peace talks between Ortega's government and the opposition Civic Alliance began Feb. 27, but progress has come in fits and starts. The government has freed more than 160 jailed government opponents to house arrest, but hundreds more remain behind bars under a slow release plan that's supposed to take place over 90 days.

On Friday the government and the opposition reached two accords, one of which supposedly restored the right to demonstrate freely — only for police to forcefully break up a protest the following day during which an apparent government sympathizer shot at demonstrators who sought refuge in a mall.

Recently the government also emphatically rejected calls for early elections

LOCAL



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Feeling Sick during vacation? At Your Service: Experienced Doctor & Pharmacy under one Roof



PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.

A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost and disoriented. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamentu, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.



Pharmacy & Drug Store with a Recipe for Success

Two quality parties that work together can only be a good thing. After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the Pharmacy, which is part of a Group of 5 pharmacies, points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerably lower than in the U.S." All medicine are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get medicines here for the use of six months and many repeated guests or time share owners do so. This saves them a lot of money. It is however mandatory to have a prescription from a local doctor", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications.

Naturally we wish you the healthiest, most wonderful vacation of your life on our Happy Island. But In case you are in need of a doctor and a pharmacy, just turn around, walk in and feel welcome to be cured!☐

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Tune in for an experience that will give dining another perspective. We are not talking about the standard 3-course menu, but about a journey through taste-land. The Restaurant at



Tierra del Sol invites you to taste as many tapa-sized items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu. Fresh Oysters, Tuna Crab Duo, Bruchetta Caprese, Portobello Mushroom, Smoked Beef Tataki or Chicken Curry Waldorf Salad are only some of the welcoming dishes. For the main courses you can decide for Skirt Steak, Duck Venison Duo or Pumpkin Risotto among others and to top it off with a sweet surrender a Duo of Quesillo & Brownie, Melon Martini or Cheesecake are one of the choices. This all for a special price and including a glass of sangria. Indulge into this culinary discovery at the most romantic scenery of our One Happy Island. ☐



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Renaissance Aruba honored Earth Hour for the 8th consecutive year



ORANJESTAD- Last Saturday March 31st Earth Hour was held all around the world. This marks the start of the month of April which is the month of environmental awareness. Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, now Wind Creek Hospitality, took part of this for the 8th consecutive year and turned off the lights. At 8:30 PM everyone in the area experienced total blackout for one hour.

Earth Hour:

'Earth Hour' became an event to bring awareness to the world, to motivate the community, business-

es and governments to carry the responsibility to safeguard our environment. Aruba also took part in this. The lights are being turned off for an hour at strategic points all over the island.

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino turned off the lights in front of the Renaissance Mall, Marina Hotel, entrance of the Renaissance Marketplace (Le Garage to Seaport Casino), the Boulevard strip, the tower of the Wind Creek Crystal Casino and the lights on the roof of the Wind Creek Seaport Casino. □



Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □



For today's newspaper we received
1 great picture from

Carol Weinberg
She wrote to us:

**"Aruba to me is a
romantic sunset
dinner at Barefoot"**

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 3 Dinner under the stars

- Take a boat trip to Renaissance Island and let your taste buds travel to paradise. Enjoy a 4-course dinner menu consisting of Lamb Bock Choy or Salmon Ponzu, while your toes get pampered in the white secluded sand. The private dinner setting includes a welcome cocktail at Lucy's Dock (across the Renaissance Mall), boat trip to Renaissance Private Island, dinner on the beach and live entertainment.
- From 7:00PM - 10:00PM
- Lucy's Pier (in front of Renaissance Mall)
- Facebook: Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino



Sunday 7 Local Farmers Market @ Ostrich Farm

- Come and support our local farmers and Artisans who will be offering everything grown or made in Aruba. Unique, delicious and family fun.
- From 10 AM - 2 PM
- Aruba Ostrich Farm
- Facebook: Aruba Ostrich Farm

Thursday 4

Theater 60 Plus ~ Fun and Creation

- Through improvisation and training we accompany the participants in this experience. The classes are a space for expression, fun and physical work. Given by Patty Cabrera
- From 9:30AM - 11:30AM
- Cas di Cultura (Aruba's House of Culture)
- Facebook: Incbtr by Cas di Cultura



Monday 8

Street Rap Musical- History of San Nicolas

- Street Rap Musical is a musical where both young and old bring to life the history of San Nicolas with live rap performances on the streets.
- Starts at 6:00PM
- Scol di Arte, Pastoor Hendrikstraat 103, San Nicolas
- Facebook: Cinearuba



Friday 5

Aruban Night

- Experience Aruba's Culture; great Ambiance, extraordinary Music and Typical Aruban Dishes; funchi, stew beef, keshi yena, fish and much more at the restaurant at The Mill Resort
- From 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- The Mill Resort & Suites
- Facebook: The Mill Resort & Suites

Saturday 6

Movie night- The Incredibles 2

- Watch a movie together with your friends and family with a big bag of popcorn and other tasty snacks! Hosted by Gymnastics in Aruba. It will be a super cozy family night.
- From 6:00PM- 8:00PM
- Divi Phoenix Sunset Ballroom
- Facebook: Gymnastics in Aruba



Tuesday 9

Taste the Authentic Peru

- Enjoy a wonderful culinary experience at this cozy Authentic Peruvian Restaurant.
- From 12:00 PM till 10:00 PM
- J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64, Eagle Beach
- Facebook Asi es mi Peru

SPORTS



Alliance of American Football ends first season prematurely

By **BERNIE WILSON**
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Alliance of American Football has ended its first season prematurely and told most employees that they will be terminated as of Wednesday. Employees were notified of the decision in a letter from the AAF board on Tuesday afternoon. The board essentially is majority owner Tom Dundon, who also owns the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes.

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, gave no reason for ending the inaugural season, only that the decision was made "after careful consideration." It also said a small staff would remain to seek new investment capital and "restructure our business. Should those efforts prove successful, we look forward to working with many of you on season two."

The abrupt end to the latest spring league after just eight weeks stunned co-founder Bill Polian, the former NFL executive who built a Super Bowl winner with Indianapolis.

"I'm extremely disappointed," Polian told The Associated Press by phone from Charlotte, North Carolina.

"On the one hand it was kind of our wildest fantasies come true. It all came true and now it's all come crashing down." Asked why the league was shutting down, Polian said he's heard "only that it's about the money. That's all."

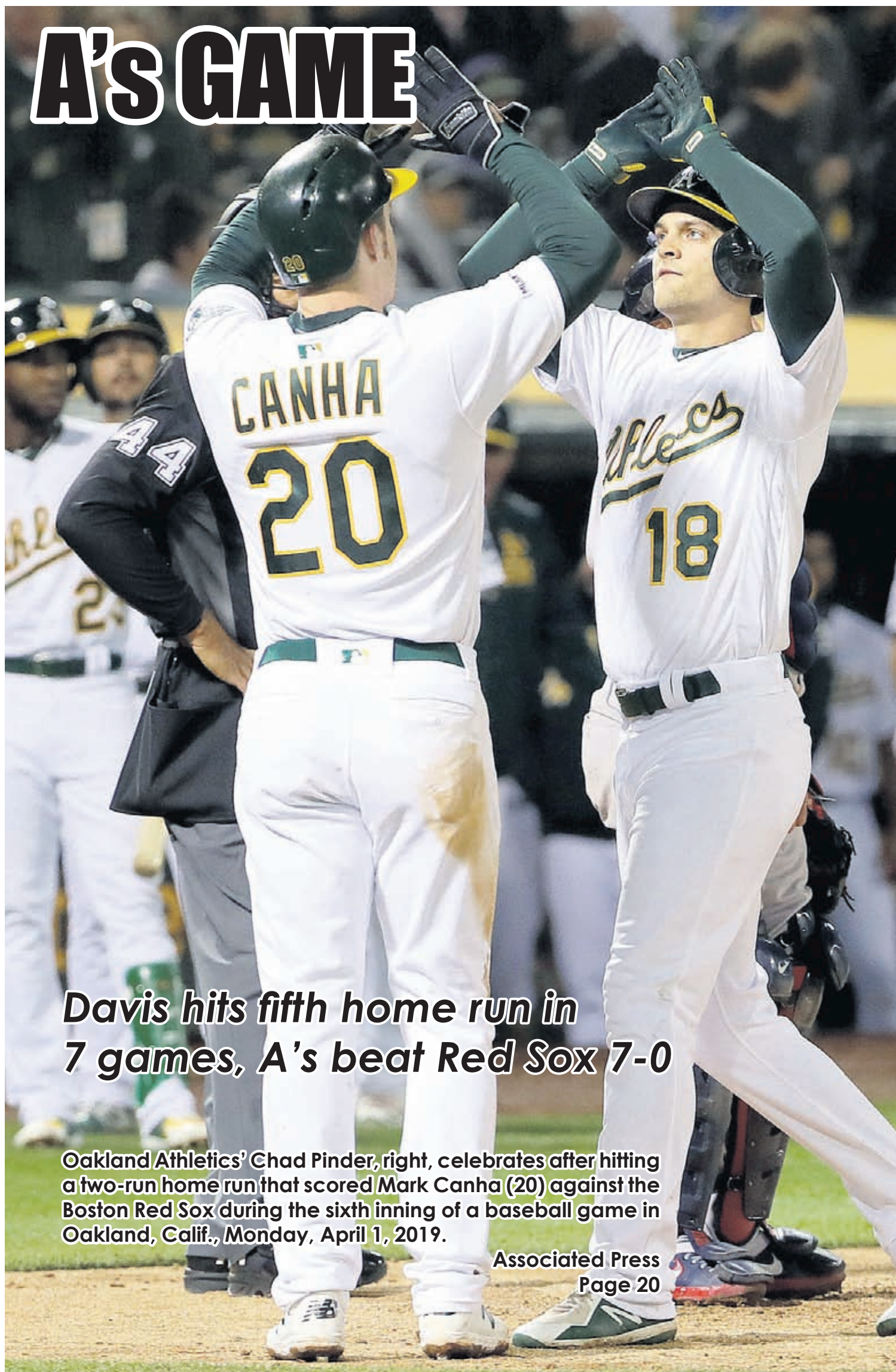
Continued on Page 23

A's GAME

Davis hits fifth home run in 7 games, A's beat Red Sox 7-0

Oakland Athletics' Chad Pinder, right, celebrates after hitting a two-run home run that scored Mark Canha (20) against the Boston Red Sox during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Monday, April 1, 2019.

Associated Press
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Bucks beat Nets as Antetokounmpo returns



Brooklyn Nets center Jarrett Allen (31) attempts to block Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, April 1, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 11 rebounds in his return to the lineup, Eric Bledsoe added 29 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Brooklyn Nets 131-121 on Monday night.

Reserve guard George Hill chipped in 22 points while Brook Lopez and Sterling Brown each scored 14 for the Bucks, who played without All-Star forward Khris Middleton because of soreness in his left groin.

Milwaukee was unable to clinch the best record in the Eastern Conference because Toronto won earlier Monday.

D'Angelo Russell had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who remained seventh in the East after losses by Detroit and Miami. Caris LeVert had 24 points off the bench.

CELTICS 110, HEAT 105

BOSTON (AP) — Kyrie Irving had 25 points, including a pair of key late free throws, and Boston held off Miami. Al Horford added 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for the Celtics (46-32), who are trying to beat out the Indiana Pacers for the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference standings. Goran Dragic led the Heat with 30 points. Bam Adebayo added 19 points

and 14 rebounds. Dwyane Wade finished with 17 points and seven assists in his final regular-season game at TD Garden.

Miami (38-39) maintained its half-game lead over Orlando for the final playoff spot in the East after the Magic's 121-109 loss to Toronto.

RAPTORS 121, MAGIC 109

TORONTO (AP) — Danny Green scored a season-high 29 points, Kawhi Leonard and Serge Ibaka each had 15 and Toronto clinched its sixth Atlantic Division title by beating Orlando.

The win also means Toronto can finish no lower than second in the Eastern Conference. The Raptors began the day three games

behind Milwaukee for first. Marc Gasol scored 13 points and Kyle Lowry had 12 as the Raptors snapped a two-game losing streak against the Magic.

Nikola Vucevic had 13 points and 13 rebounds, but the Magic lost for the second time in three games after winning their previous six. Evan Fournier scored 21 points. Orlando remained a half-game behind Miami for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

PACERS 111, PISTONS 102

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Thaddeus Young scored 19 points and Domantas Sabonis added 18 points and 12 rebounds to help Indiana snap a three-game losing streak with a victory over Detroit.

It was a crucial win for the Pacers, who had lost seven of their previous eight and their grip on potentially having home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Myles Turner chipped in with 17 points and five blocks.

Wayne Ellington scored a season-high 26 points and Andre Drummond had 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons. Detroit is in the No. 6 spot with a 1 1/2-game lead over Orlando for the final playoff spot in the East. In other NBA games it was UTAH 111, CHARLOTTE 102; PORTLAND 132, MINNESOTA 122; DALLAS 122, PHILADELPHIA 102; NEW YORK 113, CHICAGO 105; and PHOENIX 122, CLEVELAND 113. □

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Alonso hits 1st career HR to help Mets beat Marlins 7-3

By The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Rookie slugger Pete Alonso hit his first major league homer, a three-run shot to cap a four-run ninth inning, and New York overcame 16 strikeouts by its hitters to rally past Miami.

Juan Lagares hit his first homer since Sept. 7, 2017 and sparked the ninth-inning rally when he was hit by a two-strike pitch trying to bunt.

Mets starter Steven Matz allowed three runs, one earned, in 5 1/3 innings. Three relievers blanked Miami over the final 3 2/3 innings, and Jeurys Familia (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth.

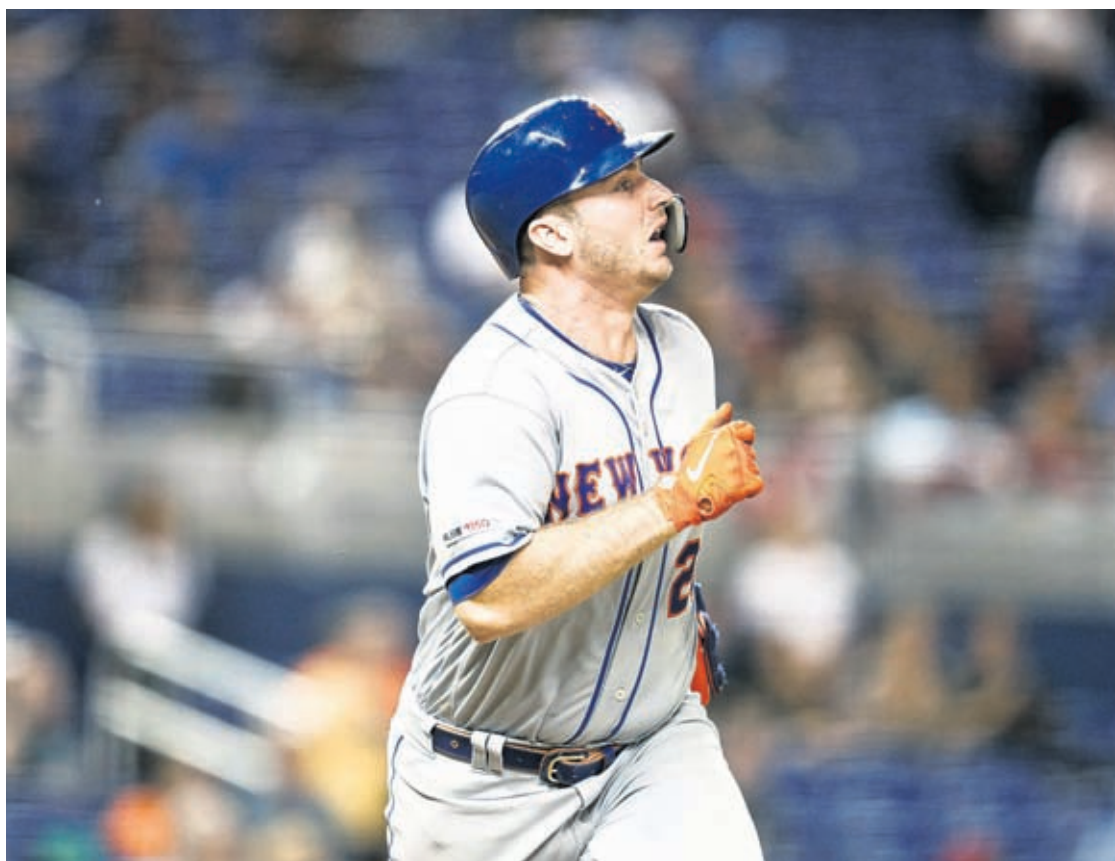
The Marlins loaded the bases with none out in the ninth against closer Edwin Diaz, who struck out the next three batters.

Starlin Castro hit a two-run homer for Miami, his first, and added an RBI single. With the score 3-all, Mets pinch hitter Dominic Smith singled to start the ninth. Drew Steckenrider (0-1) then came inside on Lagares as he squared to bunt, hitting him on the right hand. Lagares missed most of last season due to a toe injury.

BREWERS 4, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP) — Christian Yelich failed to homer for the first time this season, ending his record-tying streak, but he doubled in the ninth and scored on Ryan Braun's double as Milwaukee rallied for a victory before the smallest crowd in Great American Ball Park history.

Yelich had homered in each of Milwaukee's first four games, tying the major league record shared by Willie Mays (1971), Mark McGwire (1998), Nelson Cruz (2011), Chris Davis (2013) and Trevor Story (2016).



New York Mets' Pete Alonso watches his three-run home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Monday, April 1, 2019, in Miami.

On Monday, his only hit set up the Brewers' fourth win in five games.

The NL MVP doubled with two outs in the ninth off Raisel Iglesias (0-1) and came around on Braun's second double of the game.

Alex Wilson (1-0) allowed one hit over 1 2/3 innings. Josh Hader gave up a double in the ninth before getting his third save in three chances.

BRAVES 8, CUBS 0

ATLANTA (AP) — Brian McCann made the most of his Atlanta homecoming by hitting a two-run single in a four-run first inning, and the Braves took advantage of six Chicago errors.

After being swept in their first series at Philadelphia, the Braves became the final major league team to win a game.

Ender Inciarte and Ronald Acuña Jr. homered off Kyle Hendricks (0-1).

Hendricks gave up seven

runs, two earned, on 10 hits and three walks in 4 1/3 innings.

The right-hander's 2019 debut came after he agreed to a four-year extension last week that added \$55.5 million to his contract through 2023.

Wes Parsons (1-1) threw one perfect inning in relief of Sean Newcomb for his first career win.

CARDINALS 6, PIRATES 5, 11 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Paul DeJong scored on a passed ball in the top of the 11th inning as St. Louis rallied past Pittsburgh to spoil the Pirates' home opener.

The Cardinals came back twice against Pittsburgh's erratic bullpen, tying it in the eighth and again in the ninth.

DeJong put St. Louis in front for the first time when he singled off Steven Brault (0-1) with two outs in the 11th, moved to third after a hit by pitch and a walk and then

raced home when Nick Kingham's fastball squirted past Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli.

Jordan Hicks (1-1) worked two scoreless innings. John Gant picked up the save despite issuing a one-out walk to finish a sloppy 4-hour, 53-minute marathon that featured 16 pitchers, 16 walks, four hit batters, three errors and two home plate umpires.

Crew chief Jerry Layne left in the seventh after taking a ball off the mask and was replaced by Vic Carapazza.

GIANTS 4, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brandon Belt hit a go-ahead, two-run double off Scott Alexander in the seventh inning, and San Francisco rallied for a victory over rival Los Angeles.

Belt homered on the first pitch from struggling reliever Joe Kelly leading off the sixth that left the Giants trailing 2-1.

Pinch-hitter Yangervis Solarte reached on an infield single to third leading off the seventh.

Two outs later, Solarte scored on Pablo Sandoval's single that took one bounce off the mound and sailed into center field. Fans lustily booed Kelly (0-1).

Steven Duggar followed with a double to center, and boos again rang in Kelly's ears as he walked to the dugout after being removed.

Trailing 4-2 in the ninth, Dodgers pinch-hitter Max Muncy walked.

But Cody Bellinger and Chris Taylor struck out to end the game, wasting a stellar start from young left-hander Julio Urias.

Trevor Gott (1-0) earned the victory and Will Smith recorded his second save.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Merrill Kelly won his big league debut at age 30 by throwing six strong innings and benefiting from an offensive outburst started by Adam Jones' leadoff homer to lead Arizona over San Diego.

Padres rookie shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his first big league homer, a two-run shot in the sixth that landed at the base of the Western Metal Supply Co. building in left field.

Kelly (1-0), who grew up in Arizona, joined the Diamondbacks on a two-year contract in December after spending four seasons with the SK Wyverns in Korea. Kelly held San Diego to three runs and five hits while striking out three and walking two.

Matt Strahm (0-1) had a rough season debut for the Padres, allowing five runs and eight hits while walking two in just 2 2/3 innings. □

Yanks beat Tigers, lose Stanton and Andujar to injuries

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Domingo German overcame control problems on a chilly night to win for the first time since last June, Gary Sanchez and Brett Gardner homered and the banged-up New York Yankees beat the punchless Detroit Tigers 3-1 Monday.

Aaron Judge made a sprawling, backhand catch on Niko Goodrum's hard-hit liner after Adam Ottavino walked the first two batters in the eighth inning, a drive that would have tied the score if it had gotten by the right fielder. New York lost two more regulars to the 10-day injured list before the game after they got hurt a day earlier, outfielder Giancarlo Stanton with a strained left biceps and third baseman Miguel Andujar with a small labrum tear in his right shoulder. Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Andujar, runner-up for AL Rookie of the Year last season, will be treated conservatively with a rehab program and there is some optimism he will respond well. But if not, he could need season-surgery. They joined a group of sidelined Yankees that includes



New York Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge comes up off the grass after catching a line drive by Detroit Tigers' Niko Goodrum with two men on base during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 1, 2019, in New York. The Yankees won 3-1.

pitchers Luis Severino, Delin Betances and Jordan Montgomery, shortstop Didi Gregorius and outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury; pitcher CC Sabathia is set to join them Wednesday, after he completes a suspension for hitting a batter with a pitch last September. German (1-0) pitched five scoreless innings, striking out seven and walking five. Aroldis Chapman got his first save.

Tyson Ross (0-1) allowed three runs, two earned, in five innings.

ORIOLES 6, BLUE JAYS 5

TORONTO (AP) — David Hess was pulled after 6 1/3 hitless innings, but Baltimore's bullpen couldn't see the bid through in a win over Toronto.

Hess struck out eight and walked one before first-year manager Brandon Hyde pulled him after 82 pitches. Reliever Pe-

dro Araujo walked Justin Smoak, and then allowed a two-run homer to Randal Grichuk for Toronto's first hit. Jonathan Villar and Trey Mancini homered for Baltimore, which won its third straight, including the last two of its season-opening series against the New York Yankees. Left-hander Richard Bleier picked up his first save of the season. It was the second time this season the Blue Jays have

been no-hit into the seventh inning. Detroit right-hander Jordan Zimmermann retired 20 Toronto batters on opening day before Teoscar Hernandez singled to end his perfect game. After a team-record 24 consecutive scoreless innings from the Blue Jays starters to begin the season, things unraveled early for Sean Reid-Foley (0-1). Recalled from Triple-A Buffalo to make his eighth career start, he endured a rough outing, giving up five hits and five runs, three earned, while walking two and striking out three in two innings.

ATHLETICS 7, RED SOX 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Khris Davis hit his fifth home run over Oakland's first seven games, Ramon Laureano connected and also saved a run with a perfect throw home from center field, and the Athletics scored their first five runs via homer to beat struggling Boston. Davis led the majors with 48 homers last season, and he went deep again leading off the second against David Price (0-1), who then struck out three straight before giving up Laureano's leadoff drive the next inning. □

Red Sox sign Bogaerts to new deal for 7 years, \$132M

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Xander Bogaerts loves winning and having a yearly chance at championships. He also appreciates a supportive, family feel on a team around him.

The Red Sox give Bogaerts all of that, with stability for the next seven years to boot. He considers it a perfect fit.

"The fans, this organization in general, expect winning," Bogaerts said. "I know my teammates know how much I love winning regardless if it's cards, baseball, dominoes, I don't care, I just enjoy winning. They know that about me." Boston's shortstop signed a

\$120 million, six-year contract covering 2020-25, a deal that raises his guarantee to \$132 million over seven seasons. The sides agreed to terms Sunday night and made it official on Monday, when Boston was set to open a four-game road series against the Oakland Athletics.

"I've won two rings with this organization. The group we had last year and the group we have this year, it goes beyond just regular guys. It's a real family," he said prior to the series opener at Oakland. "I'm really blessed, I'm really blessed to have a great group of guys like that behind me and pushing me to become better."

Bogaerts agreed in January to a \$12 million, one-year deal. His new deal pays \$20 million annually and includes a \$20 million option for 2026 that becomes guaranteed if he has 535 plate appearances in 2025 and is healthy at the end of the season. He gains a full no-trade provision after seven years of major league service and is on track to reach that after the 2020 season.

Conversations about a new contract went throughout the offseason.

"Alex Cora, you can stop leaving those dirty messages on my phone about getting this done," quipped agent Scott Boras to the Red Sox manager.



Boston Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts smiles at a news conference before a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics in Oakland, Calif., Monday, April 1, 2019.

Associated Press

Bogaerts' desire to be in Boston for the long haul was "influential" in getting this done, said Dombrowski, who still wasn't sure on opening day what direction this would go.

"Absolutely thrilled to have Bogey sign with us for an extended period," Dombrowski said. "Young player

that came through the organization, very talented, one of the top players in the game of baseball in my opinion in today's game. But really what the foundation of an organization is all about, having somebody who we sign and then develop and has a chance to remain here." □

Tavares scores as Maple Leafs top Isles 2-1 to clinch spot

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP)

— John Tavares scored against his former team and the Toronto Maple Leafs clinched a playoff berth with a 2-1 victory over the New York Islanders on Monday night.

Calle Rosen also had a goal for Toronto, which needed just one point to secure its postseason spot and won for the fourth time in 11 games (4-5-2). Frederik Andersen stopped 28 shots. Tavares, held without a point while the Maple Leafs lost by a combined 10-1 margin in his first two games against the Islanders since leaving last summer to sign with his hometown team, broke through off a pass from Mitch Marner to make it 2-0 at 3:50 of the third period. Tavares added to his career best with his 46th goal and set a career high with his 87th point.

Jordan Eberle scored and Robin Lehner finished with 36 saves for the playoff-bound Islanders, who were playing their final regular-season home game.

New York squandered a chance to pull within a point of first-place Washington in the Metropolitan Division. Instead, the Islanders remained three points behind the Capitals and two ahead of third-place Pittsburgh. The Capitals and Islanders each have



A shot by Toronto Maple Leafs' John Tavares (91) gets past New York Islanders goaltender Robin Lehner (40) for a goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, April 1, 2019, in Uniondale, N.Y. The Maple Leafs won 2-1.

two games remaining — including the season finale at Washington on Saturday night. The Penguins have three games left.

PANTHERS 5, CAPITALS 3

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Vincent Trocheck scored two goals, including his 100th in the NHL, and Florida withstood a late surge to beat Washington.

Troy Brouwer, Jonathan Huberdeau and Frank Vatrano also scored for the Panthers, and Aleksander Barkov had three assists. Barkov has 94 points this

season, tying Pavel Bure for the franchise record set in 1999-00.

Roberto Luongo made 27 saves as the Panthers won their third straight game.

Jakub Vrana, Nicklas Backstrom and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored for Washington, and Pheonix Copley stopped 29 shots in his first start since March 19. T.J. Oshie had two assists and Alex Ovechkin added one. The Capitals had their four-game winning streak snapped and missed a chance to clinch their

fourth straight Metropolitan Division title.

BLUES 3, AVALANCHE 2, SO ST. LOUIS (AP) — Ryan O'Reilly scored the only goal in a shootout and St. Louis slowed Colorado's playoff push.

Trying to hold onto the final postseason spot in the Western Conference, the Avalanche had won four straight and were 6-0-1 in their previous seven games. They earned one point to move two ahead of Arizona for the second wild card in the West. Both teams have three games remaining.

Colorado is three points behind Dallas for the top wild card. By getting to 86 points, the Avalanche eliminated Edmonton from playoff contention.

Jaden Schwartz and Vladimir Tarasenko scored in regulation for the Blues, who improved to 7-1-0 in their last eight games. St. Louis has already wrapped up a playoff berth and still has a chance to win the Central Division. The Blues are tied with Nashville for second place, two points behind Winnipeg. All three teams have three games left.

Jordan Binnington made 24 saves in his 22nd win of the season, tying Jake Allen for the most by a Blues

rookie goaltender.

Alexander Kerfoot and Gabriel Landeskog scored in the third period for the Avalanche.

JETS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3, OT

CHICAGO (AP) — Kevin Hayes scored at 3:38 of overtime and Winnipeg beat Chicago to snap a three-game slide and move into sole possession of first place in the Central Division.

Hayes cut to the net off the right side, got past Dylan Strome and tucked a shot past goalie Corey Crawford. The playoff-bound Jets improved to 96 points, two ahead of St. Louis and Nashville atop the crowded division race.

Strome scored his second goal of the game with 2:20 left in the third period to tie it at 3. By earning a point, Chicago avoided being eliminated from playoff contention for the second straight season — for now. Jack Roslovic scored two goals to end a 22-game drought, and Adam Lowry also had a goal for the Jets. Connor Hellebuyck made 25 saves.

Jonathan Toews had a goal and an assist for Chicago and set a career high for points with 78. The 30-year-old Chicago captain's 34th goal tied his mark for one season, set in 2008-09.

Crawford stopped 34 shots, including Mark Scheifele's penalty shot 40 seconds into the second period, but Chicago lost for the third time in its last four.

LIGHTNING 5, SENATORS 2

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Yanni Gourde had two goals and an assist, and Tampa Bay became the third team in NHL history to win 60 games in a season with a victory over Ottawa.

Mikhail Sergachev, Brayden Point and Steven Stamkos also scored for the Lightning (60-15-4). Nikita Kucherov had two assists and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 22 saves.

The other teams to win at least 60 regular-season games were the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens (60-8-12) and the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings (62-13-7). □

LUNA Bar pledges to make up roster pay gap for U.S. women

By The Associated Press

The maker of LUNA Bar brand nutrition bars has pledged to pay \$31,250 to each of the players who make the U.S. roster for the Women's World Cup, an amount the company says makes up the difference between bonuses for the men's and women's national teams.

California-based Clif Bar & Company announced the planned payments Tuesday on Equal Pay Day, which highlights the gender wage gap.

The U.S. women's national team filed a lawsuit in fed-

eral court earlier this month alleging gender discrimination.

The players have said in court documents that U.S. men's team players earned a \$55,000 bonus apiece for making the World Cup roster in 2014, while the women earned a \$15,000 bonus each for making the 2015 World Cup roster.

"It's ironic that one of the most popular sports in the world is still experiencing pay inequalities between women and men," Clif Bar & Company co-owner Kit Crawford said in a statement. "We are big

fans of the U.S. Women's National Team and were inspired to take action and make a difference that matters."

The company characterized the payments, which total \$718,750, as a donation, made in partnership with the U.S. Women's National Team Players Association.

U.S. Soccer has said that the differences in pay are the result of different collective bargaining agreements that set different pay structures for the two teams. The agreements are not made public. □

SEASON ENDS

Continued from Page 18

The league had teams in Orlando, Atlanta, San Diego, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, Birmingham and Memphis.

Several hours before the letter was sent, Memphis quarterback Johnny Manziel tweeted: "If you're an AAF player and the league does dissolve. The last check you got will be the last one that you get. No lawsuit or anything else will get you your bread. Save your money and keep your head up. It's the only choice at this point unless something drastic happens."

Manziel said in another tweet: "Just the reality of this unfortunate situation.. great concept, good football on the field and fun for fans to watch. Just not enough money to go around which has been the main problem with "other" leagues for a long time." The letter said employees would be paid through Wednesday.

The AAF seemed to have a better chance of surviving than other alternative leagues, such as the USFL and the World League, because of the people and philosophies involved.

Polian and co-founder Charlie Ebersol, a television and film producer, envi-

sioned it as a development league for the NFL with several rules tweaks designed to speed up play and make it safer.

There were no kickoffs or PATs. Teams had to go for a two-point conversion after touchdowns.

"We were headed to a tremendous run of success, beginning with Saturday's game leading into the Final Four on CBS," Polian told the AP. "Our league on the field has prospered and grown."

The football's gotten better, and that's a tremendous tribute to the coaches and players and GMs and front office staff and all the other people who have done a phenomenal job."

Polian later said in a statement that when Dundon took over, it was his and Ebersol's belief "that we would finish the season, pay our creditors and make the necessary adjustments to move forward in a manner that made economic sense for all. The momentum generated by our players, coaches and football staff had us well positioned for future success. Regrettably, we will not have that opportunity." While it clearly wasn't NFL-caliber football, it was entertaining and helped fill the post-Super Bowl void. Among the league's



In this March 17, 2019, file photo, San Diego Fleet tight end Gavin Escobar (89) makes a critical first down catch on fourth and long over Birmingham Iron defensive back Max Redfield (20) late in the second half of an Alliance of American Football game in San Diego.

Associated Press

coaches were Steve Spurrier, Dennis Erickson, Mike Martz and Mike Riley.

However, there were signs of trouble in a league put together in less than one year.

Dundon invested \$250 mil-

lion in the AAF shortly after play began. At the time, Ebersol said reports the Alliance was short on cash and needed a bailout from Dundon in order to make payroll were untrue. He said the league had a

technical glitch in its payroll system that was fixed.

The AAF aspired to be a league for players with NFL hopes, but it could not reach agreement with the NFLPA to use players at the end of NFL rosters. □

Cuba releases first group of players eligible for MLB

BY MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban Baseball Federation released its first group of players able to sign contracts directly with Major League Baseball organizations, and some could be playing in the United States this year. The 34 players are 17 to 25, classified as international amateurs under MLB rules and eligible to sign minor league contracts.

Minor league salaries start at \$850 a month but signing bonuses for top players can exceed \$1 million while hundreds of players sign for \$10,000 or less.

The deal announced in December by MLB, the

CBF and the Major League Baseball Players Association specifies 25 percent of the signing bonus will go to the CBF as a release fee. Cuban players also pay a 4% income tax on foreign earnings. No likely stars were apparent on the list, but more notable players included 22-year-old Ridel Martinez Perez and 23-year-old Liván Moinelo Pita, who have played professionally in Japan; 17-year-old infielder Loidel Chapellí Zulueta; and 18-year-old pitcher Norge Carlos Vera Aldana.

The agreement, which runs through Oct. 31, 2021, allows Cubans to sign under rules similar to those for

players under contract to clubs in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Only players under contract to the Cuban federation are covered by the agreement, and the Cuban federation agreed to release all players 25 and older with at least six years of professional experience. They would be classified as international professionals under MLB's labor contract with the players' association and not subject to international amateur signing bonus pools.

The Cuban federation may at its discretion release younger players to sign minor league contracts with MLB organizations, as it did

Tuesday. "We're doing this in the spirit of moving forward the implementation of the deal, with the goal of developing the potential of Cuban and international baseball, and, above all, fighting human trafficking," the Cuban Baseball Federation said in a statement. A former Cuban federation player under contract to a MLB club may return to Cuba during the offseason. He can play in Cuba during the offseason only with his MLB club's consent.

Without a formal path from Cuba to the major leagues, hundreds of top players have left the island for good, many making harrowing crossings on rafts

and rickety boats in the years before Cuba abandoned a hated exit permit requirement for most of its citizens. The agreement comes despite rising tensions between Cuba and the Trump administration, which is accusing Havana of providing military and intelligence support to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whom Washington is trying to overthrow. Negotiations for the Cuba-MLB agreement date back to former U.S. President Barack Obama's detente with Cuba and opponents of the Cuba government, like Sen. Marco Rubio, have pledged to try to overturn it. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

In our clinic we have developed a protocol that has been shown to be effective in the treatment of hot, painful junctions between bones. Joints problems are commonly called "arthritis" but it is a group of different forms of joint inflammation whose origin is not known. Traditional Chinese Medicine calls the different conditions which cause pain, stiffness, and in most cases, swelling in the joints "steaming bones".

In regular, allopathic medicine the initial treatment for joint pain is limited to the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) resulting in many patients eventually becoming wheelchair bound. Others have excess tissue produced from the uncontrolled arthritis removed. The result is progressive joint damage making arthritis the number one cause of physical disability. Arthritis affects both sexes, all races, socioeconomic levels, and geographic areas.

Identical twins statistically do not both develop arthritis. Medical researchers realize there is no genetic foundation to arthritis. Associations with the Epstein-Barr virus that causes mononucleosis, and testing on animals with the herpes simplex virus have pharmaceutical companies looking for the "something" that produces arthritis so a pill or vaccine can be developed.

All 86 forms of arthritis have one thing in common; chronic inflammation that breaks down connective tissue. Connective tissue has the material to rebuild itself when the body is in bal-

ance. However, in the presence of inflammation, this material builds big painful joints. With unrelenting inflammation the body's immune system turns to attack itself.

Health care in Western countries today has a major focus on disease, infection and their risk factors; cholesterol, smoking, and blood pressure. Although allopathic medicine recognizes indicators found in blood tests and thermogram reports, very little attention is given to them. Even less attention is placed on managing the risk of the body's reaction to toxins and heavy metals except in acute poisoning. Additionally, recognized but not addressed are oxidative stress, connective tissue breakdown, chronic inflammation, anaerobic tendency, free calcium excess, and acid stress; all leading to degenerative diseases and accelerated aging.

Life expectancy for patients with any form of arthritis is shortened by 5-10 years. After 5 years of disease, approximately 33% of patients will not be working; after 10 years, approximately half will be wheelchair bound. Daily activities are impaired in most patients. Spontaneous clinical remission, getting better, is uncommon with allopathic medicine and only seen in 5-10% of patients.

In our patients with painful joints, we see many common features. The first is that they do not drink enough water. Painful stiff joint symptoms are present in the beginning of mild dehydration. In moderate chronic dehydration we see most of the symptoms of Arthritis, including High cholesterol, High blood pressure, Heart Problems, Diabetes, and Water Retention or Edema. Chronic dehydration is a problem doctors normally do not address until it is life threatening. Water plays a critical role in every single chemical reaction in the body. Next to oxygen, it is the most vital element of life. Yet, it seems to be virtually ignored by doctors and Public Health Departments. We have good results using colon hydro-therapy to help eliminate toxins and re-hydrate the body.

Joint cartilage is composed mainly of water (70-80%). The solid part of cartilage consists primarily of collagen which is a protein. Problems in the synovial membrane to transfer glucose and protein will hinder the production of collagen. The most abundant circulating protein is found in the blood plasma is albumin. Levels

of albumin are often decreased in people with active rheumatoid arthritis. We can check and monitor your amount of albumin by ordering a blood test.

If your blood serum albumin is low, the synovial membrane will not have sufficient protein available to transfer into the joint. Our arthritis protocol is to determine what is reducing your blood albumin level. Albumin serves to sponge up toxins produced by bacterial infections. We always test to identify infection together with albumin.

In our clinic we have found that periodontal disease, a bacterial infection of the gums, causes byproducts to enter the bloodstream and trigger the liver to make proteins such as C-reactive protein (CRP) that inflames arteries, joints and promotes blood clot formation. Periodontal disease and heavy metal poisoning, need to be considered as major contributors to increased levels of CRP by the medical community. The treatment outcomes with people being treated by physicians trained in biocompatible dentistry and detoxification of heavy metals are very positive.

We see definite co-relationships between joint problems and patient's metabolic type. Generally, we find that Blood Type A and AB tends to get a puffy, inflamed arthritis, while Blood Type O tends to get a harder, more persistent type of arthritis. At Viana Healing Center we put all patients on the blood type diet, which can additionally be modified for the individual.

The sugar of wheat germ is highly specific to Blood type A and O in causing joint pain. The adoption of a wheat-free diet appears to have a positive effect. Type O individuals following the type O diet have experienced beneficial changes in their blood test results, including total cholesterol, HDL and Triglycerides, without use of cholesterol lowering medications.

Get The Point! A diagnosis of any type of arthritis should be a wake up call. Allopathic medicine offers a health future that does not look bright. We use blood, amino acid, hair testing and biocompatible (natural/non-toxic) dental exams to determine the source of your inflammation. Applying the science based results; we develop a natural health plan that can make positive changes not only for your joints, but your overall wellbeing. Call to schedule an appointment. □

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Millennial Money: Credit basics you need to know

By AMRITA JAYAKUMAR

Associated Press

Getting your credit score today is easy — just turn to your bank, credit card issuer or one of the many apps and websites out there.

That means millennials, unlike their parents, have the advantage of early insight into their financial profiles. But looking isn't enough. Without knowing the basics of credit, looking at your data is like having the pieces to a puzzle, but not understanding how they fit together.

Here's what to know.

YOU HAVE MANY SCORES

You have multiple credit scores, not just one. Those scores vary, depending on: — What scoring model was used. You've probably heard of FICO, the one most widely used by lenders. VantageScore is its fast-growing competitor.

— Which version of FICO or VantageScore was used. They each have a few — some older, some newer, some specific to financial products like credit cards or auto loans.

— Which of your credit reports provided data to create the score. Three major credit bureaus — Experian, Equifax and TransUnion — each maintain a record of your credit use. Those reports can be slightly differ-



This June 10, 2015, file photo shows a chip credit card in Philadelphia. Getting your credit score today is easy, just turn to your bank, credit card issuer or one of the many apps and websites out there.

ent, depending on whether your creditors report activity to one, two or all three. Lenders may pull different versions of your scores than you see, and you cannot always know which one they use for approval decisions, says Katherine Lucas McKay, program manager in the financial security program at the Aspen Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

DON'T PANIC ABOUT YOUR SCORE

You cannot control what

score lenders use, but you can control how you manage credit. Fortunately, a small set of good credit habits have the power to benefit all of your scores. Paying your bills on time and using less than 30 percent of your available credit limits (the lower the better) will help build a strong score, regardless of the scoring model. That's because FICO and VantageScore both emphasize having a good payment history and low credit usage when cal-

culating scores.

To accurately track how your credit is doing, make sure you're looking at the same score (FICO or VantageScore) generated using data from the same credit report.

FORGET THE MYTHS

When it comes to credit, common misconceptions get in the way of building good habits.

One persistent myth: Checking your own score hurts it.

"You're not going to lose

points for looking at your credit," says Angela Moore, a certified financial planner at Modern Money Advisor in Miami. Checking your own score triggers a "soft" pull on your credit but doesn't affect your score.

A "hard" pull, on the other hand, occurs when you apply for a loan or a landlord asks to scrutinize your credit, for example. Hard pulls also go on your credit reports and can temporarily knock a few points off your score.

Moore says another misconception is that utility and cell phone payments help credit. Managing those bills responsibly is necessary, she says, but they don't affect your score — unless you forget to pay.

Say you move out of a shared apartment and leave the power bill in your name. If your former roommates don't make payments, the account could end up in collections and damage your credit.

To prevent such surprises, use free services to scan your reports for accounts you don't recognize or forgot were open, Moore says. Also check your detailed credit reports from annualcreditreport.com; you're entitled to one free annual report from each bureau. □

US stocks move lower in early trading after a 3-day rally



Traders Neal Catania, left, and Benjamin Tuchman work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Associated Press

By DAMIAN J. TROISE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks moved broadly lower on Wall Street in early trading on Tuesday, reversing course from a three-

day rally.

Health care and consumer products companies led the market lower. Walgreens Boots Alliance plunged after it slashed its forecast following a weak

quarter. Competitor CVS followed it lower.

Technology and financial stocks bucked the downward trend. Apple and Cisco both made gains. Ameriprise Financial rose 3.3%.

Dow Inc., which makes plastics and other products for both consumer and industrial uses, rose 5.1% in its first day of trading after being spun off from chemical maker DowDuPont.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 106 points, or 0.4% as of 11:45 a.m. The S&P 500 index fell 0.2% and the Nasdaq composite index was little changed.

TAKE AN ASPIRIN: Walgreens had a headache of a quarter as insur-

ers trimmed prescription costs, generic drug prices dropped and brand-name medication prices stalled.

All those factors resulted in a 14% drop in second-quarter profit, which the company's CEO described as the most difficult quarter the nation's largest drugstore has faced since forming a few years ago.

Walgreens also slashed its forecast for 2019.

The stock fell 12% and helped push down key competitor CVS Health by 4%.

LIFTOFF: Delta rose 7% after raising its profit forecast for the current quarter, citing strong passenger demand.

The company also said fuel costs were less than expected and it extended

a credit card partnership with American Express. □



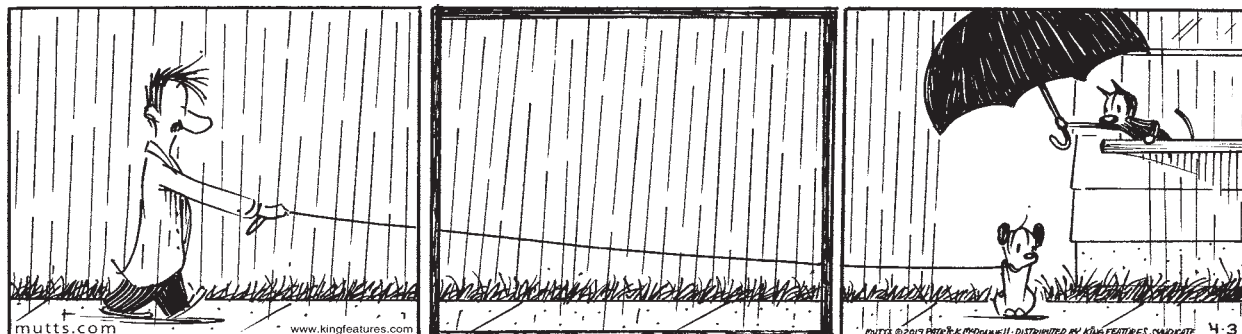
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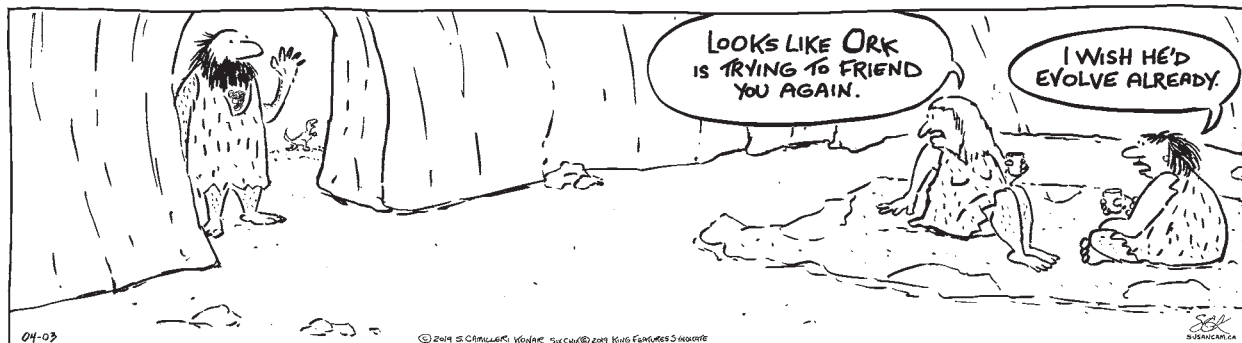
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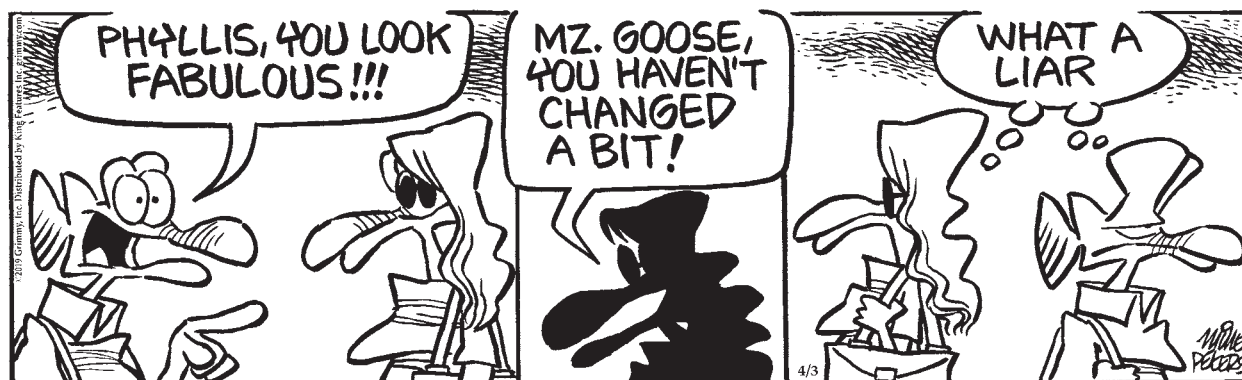
6 Chix



Blondie



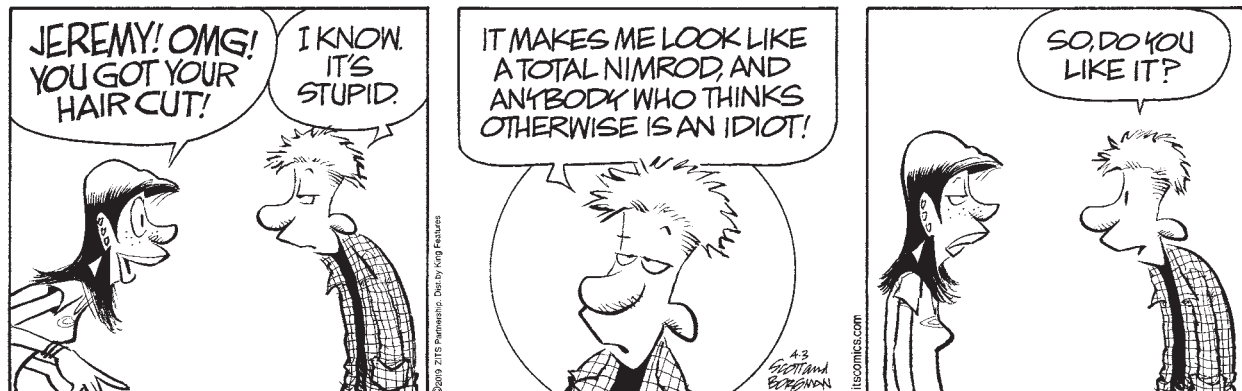
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8	6	9	4	7	3	1	
	1						5	
		4	5	3	1	8		
	4						8	
6					2			7
9				5		1		3
8					3			5
	6						7	
		2	7	6	4	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

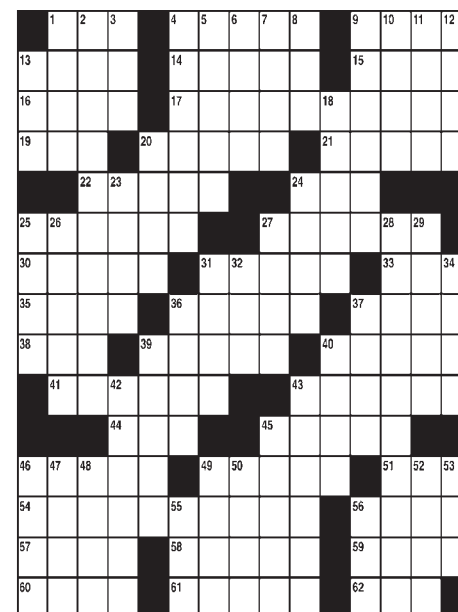
4/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	9	2	4	8	1	3	7	6
1	7	8	2	6	3	9	4	5
4	3	6	7	9	5	2	1	8
9	4	1	5	2	7	6	8	3
8	6	7	9	3	4	5	2	1
2	5	3	6	1	8	7	9	4
7	8	9	3	4	6	1	5	2
6	1	5	8	7	2	4	3	9
3	2	4	1	5	9	8	6	7

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trigger's rider
 - 4 Honey-yellow color
 - 9 Resound
 - 13 On the __; increasing
 - 14 Word in two U.S. state names
 - 15 Exhibit
 - 16 __ up; misbehaves
 - 17 Mixed dish
 - 19 Conjunction
 - 20 Train bed
 - 21 Coughs
 - 22 Lacking companions
 - 24 Abyss
 - 25 Brief period of time
 - 27 Most resentful
 - 30 Straighten
 - 31 Baskin-Robbins utensil
 - 33 Earl Grey product
 - 35 Fixed stare
 - 36 Drag one's feet
 - 37 Bosc or Bartlett
 - 38 Dined
 - 39 Climb
 - 40 Charisma
 - 41 Newspaper bigwig
 - 43 Not at all sturdy
 - 44 One not to be trusted
 - 45 Pliers & saws
 - 46 Knight's protection
 - 49 -degree burn; serious injury
 - 51 Shack
 - 54 Going into again
 - 56 Abundant
 - 57 Sugar __; Hawaiian crop
 - 58 Nickname for Margaret
 - 59 Come __; find
 - 60 Tater
 - 61 Rate of progress
 - 62 Suffix for host or count



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/3/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

OVER	DECAF	PUMA
LEAF	ERODE	ANOX
DESK	PROJECTILE	
SPY	HEEL	HIVES
	SOUND	DEO
HATRED	SEASON	
ACRES	GREAT	VAL
SHES	BRIEF	BEVY
HEE	FEEDS	BARER
STARRY	CIRCLE	
	GIG	CLOSH
AGREE	BAAS	ATV
SLANDEROUS	TRUE	
AUNT	LIONS	AGES
NETS	SPRAY	NEST

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4/3/19

DOWN

- 1 Puerto __
- 2 Excluded from a group
- 3 Simple reply
- 4 Go higher
- 5 Actor Dudley
- 6 Tap a baseball
- 7 Carve in glass
- 8 Sorority letter
- 9 Real __; Century 21's business
- 10 Stylish
- 11 "Peter Pan" captain
- 12 Possesses
- 13 Hightailed it
- 18 Bird's sound
- 20 Western German city
- 23 Theater box
- 24 Combine, as funds
- 25 Long story
- 26 Thrill
- 27 Food fish
- 28 Titanic & others
- 29 In __; weeping
- 31 Asterisk
- 32 Coolidge, to friends
- 34 Military force
- 36 Inverness resident
- 37 Donahue or Hartman
- 39 Get under way

- 40 Clumsy fellow
- 42 Pressed
- 43 Did a blacksmith's job
- 45 Slight coloring
- 46 Circle portions
- 47 "As ye sow, so shall ye __"
- 48 Waiter's offering
- 49 Ensnare
- 50 Take on employees
- 52 Eerie saucers, for short
- 53 Reasonable bedtime
- 55 Dorothy's aunt & others
- 56 Actress McClanahan

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Sunday check in : \$9000 each

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Thursday check in

1 BR and Studio WK # 11,12,13

2sd floor garden view

1 BR \$8000, studio \$7000

Divi Village

Building C elevator

2 BR wk 13 \$14 K

3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated

weeks remain

1 BR WK # 14 \$7.5 K

1st floor with 16 weeks remain

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in

1 BR wk 11 & 12 \$18 K both

4th floor pool/ocean view

Friday check in

1 BR WK # 12

4 th floor \$ 9000

Garden/ocean view

CPV

Building A

1 BR wk 13 and 14

\$6000 each

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum weeks

1 BR Ocean View \$ 11 K

2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27 K

2615 destinations points \$21 K

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Zuiderdam

April 4

Carnival Conquest

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Bait crisis could take the steam out of lobster this summer

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

The boom times for the U.S. lobster industry are imperiled this year because of a shortage of a little fish that has been luring the crustaceans into traps for hundreds of years.

Members of the lobster business fear a looming bait crisis could disrupt the industry during a time when lobsters are as plentiful, valuable and in demand as ever. America's lobster catch has climbed this decade, especially in Maine, but the fishery is dependent on herring — a schooling fish other fishermen seek in the Atlantic Ocean.

Federal regulators are imposing a steep cut in the herring fishery this year, and some areas of the East Coast are already restricted to fishing, months before the lobster season gets rolling. East Coast herring fishermen brought more than 200 million pounds of the fish to docks as recently as 2014, but this year's catch will be limited to less than a fifth of that total.

The cut is leaving lobstermen, who have baited traps with herring for generations in Maine, scrambling for new bait sources and concerned about their ability to get lobster to customers who have come to expect easy availability in recent years.

"If you don't have bait, you're not going to fish. If the price of bait goes up, you're not going to fish," said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association. "We have to take the big picture, and make sure our communities continue to have viable fisheries."

The cut in the herring quota stems from a scientific



In this March 18, 2019 photo, herring cover the bottom of a barrel at a bait dealer in Portland, Maine.

assessment of the fish's population last year by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northeast Fisheries Science Center. The assessment found a below-average number of young herring are surviving in the ocean. The loss of herring has sounded alarms among scientists and conservationists, because the fish also serve a critical role in the ocean food chain and they're valuable as food for humans. It's unclear exactly what factors are causing young herring to fail to survive to maturity, said Jonathan Deroba, lead assessment scientist for herring with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. He said it's "premature to predict the sky is falling," though he added the herring population could be suffering from multiple stresses at once.

"We'd be foolish not to look at climate change. The abundance of haddock, which are egg predators. And fishing activity

on Georges Bank disrupting herring," Deroba said. Georges Bank is a key fishing area off New England. Fishermen bring herring to shore mostly in Maine and Massachusetts, which are also the biggest lobster fishing states. Lobstermen also load traps with other kinds of bait, such as

menhaden, and some herring is available in freezers, but fishermen said they're concerned there won't be enough to go around.

The New England Fishery Management Council is also considering herring catch quota for 2020 and 2021 later this year, and fishermen said they're con-

cerned the cuts could be maintained for those years. The loss of herring is also a heavy blow to the fishermen who harvest the species, said Jeff Kaelin, who works in government relations for Lund's Fisheries, a herring harvester based in Cape May, New Jersey.

"It's going to be tough on everyone," Kaelin said, not just the people who catch the herring, but also "the lobstermen who depend on it for historic bait supply." The U.S. lobster fishery set an all-time record for value at docks in 2016, when the catch was worth more than \$670 million. That was also the year the herring catch fell to its lowest point since 2002, though it was still more than 138 million pounds.

Lobsterman Jeffrey Peterson, who fishes out of the island town of Vinalhaven, Maine, said he's sure he'll be able to load his traps with bait this summer. He's just concerned about how expensive it'll be to do so.

"It'll be around," he said. "It's just how much they gouge you for it." □

Associated Press

WWF sounds alarm after 48 lbs of plastic found in dead whale

By **COLLEEN BARRY**
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — An 8-meter (26-foot) sperm whale was found dead off Sardinia with 22 kilograms (48.5 pounds) of plastic in its belly, prompting the World Wildlife Foundation to sound an alarm Monday over the dangers of plastic waste in the Mediterranean Sea. The environmental group said the garbage recovered from the sperm whale's stomach included a corrugated tube for electrical works, plastic plates, shopping bags, tangled fishing lines and a washing detergent package with its bar code still legible.

"It is the first time we have been confronted with an animal with such a huge quantity of garbage," Cinzia Centelegghe, a biologist with the University of Padova, told the Turin daily



In this photo taken on Friday, March 29, 2019 and provided by SEAME Sardinia Onlus, a whale is lifted up onto a truck after being recovered off Sardinia island, Italy.

Associated Press

La Stampa. The exam also determined that the whale was carrying a fetus that had died and was in an advance state of decomposition. Experts said the mother whale had been unable to digest calamari due to the huge amount of plastic it had ingested,

filling two-thirds of its stomach.

WWF said plastic is one of the greatest threats to marine life and has killed at least five other whales that had ingested large amounts of it over the last two years from Europe to Asia. □

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Game of Thrones takes over Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Winter came to Las Vegas.

Fire-breathing dragons held court over the world-famous fountains at the Bellagio casino-resort Sunday, as familiar elements from the TV phenomenon "Game of Thrones" were projected on the rising water. The jets danced to a score incorporating the recognizable theme song before one of the colossal beasts lit up the lake along the Las Vegas Strip in a blaze of pyrotechnics.

The 3½-minute spectacle that left a crowd of on-lookers cheering debuted two weeks ahead of the scheduled premiere of the HBO fantasy series' final season.

The streaming water formed the show's iconic throne and crown. A towering 800-foot-long (244-meter) wall of water emerged from the lake.

The display, however, intentionally did not reveal any elements of the new season.

"We didn't just want to portray literally scenes from 'Game of Thrones' here, not like a teaser or a preview of season eight," said Mark Fuller, CEO of WET Design, the company that created the fountains and show. "We want to bring you the emotion."

At the heart of the fountain show is the giant wall of water. It represents the ice wall that defines the TV show, but also serves as a surface onto which the creators project falling snow, the series' logo and the silhouettes of the dragons breathing orange and blue flames.

The company worked with the series' composer Ramin Djawadi to create a special score that along with the dancing water aimed to capture the excitement of the TV hit.

The fountain show begins by dropping musical hints of the TV series, using Djawadi's "Winter is Here" from the seventh season. It comes to full force as the show's recognizable "Main Titles" theme song comes



The Night King is projected during a "Game of Thrones"-themed show at the fountains at the Bellagio casino-resort, Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

on.

"We have to make sure that the fountain gives the same kind of energy, the same kind of drama, that people are associating this music with," said Peter Kopik, director of design

and choreography for WET Design. "(That) was the hard part of the choreography because it's continuously energetic and continuously up and loud and strong, and choreography had to reflect the same

thing and not being tiring at the same time."

The spectacle ends as the shadow of the Night King appears one last time, and flames cover part of the roughly 9-acre (3.6-hectare) lake.

"We have probably seen a hundred fountain shows, and this is by far the best," he said while waiting for the show to start for a second time. "Oh yeah, we are not moving."

Las Vegas resident Gaile Tiquia is re-watching all seasons ahead of the upcoming premiere. She said she came to the casino-resort after seeing a mention on social media about the special show and wondering if it would include any spoilers.

"I had chills for the entire

show," she said. "It's amazing! It's too much."

The "Game of Thrones" fountain show marks the first time the lake has been set ablaze, but artists and others have previously used the fountains for a variety of stunts. Billionaire Richard Branson rode a jet ski on the lake in 2010, and Drake performed one of his hits there during the 2017 Billboard Music Awards.

The landmark at the luxury property owned by MGM Resorts International attracts millions of visitors every year. It has nightly shows with recorded music ranging from Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman's duet "Time to Say Goodbye" to Sin City's unofficial hymn "Viva Las Vegas" sung by Elvis Presley. □

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Live-action 'Dumbo' struggles to soar at box office

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Disney's "Dumbo" isn't exactly taking flight at the North American box office the way its other live-action remakes of animated classics have. The Walt Disney Co. said Sunday that the Tim Burton-directed film has earned an estimated \$45 million domestically from 4,259 locations against a \$170

million production budget. It's less than half of what "Beauty and the Beast," "The Jungle Book" and Burton's own "Alice in Wonderland" opened to. The remake of the 1941 animated film stars Colin Farrell and Danny DeVito. It got mixed to negative reviews from critics and currently has a middling 53 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences who did turn out, however, had a dif-



This image released by Disney shows Nico Parker, left, in a scene from "Dumbo."

Associated Press

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COLIN FARRELL | MICHAEL KEATON
DUMBO
SPANISH
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FRI 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30 | 10:55
SAT 1:15 | 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30 | 10:55
SUN 1:15 | 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30

JORGE PABÓN | FAUSTO MATA
LOS DOMIRRUQUEÑOS 2
SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

LUPITA NYONG'O | WINSTON DUKE
Us
MON-THU 5:20 | 7:50
FRI 5:20 | 7:50 | 10:20
SAT 2:50 | 5:20 | 7:50 | 10:20
SUN 2:50 | 5:20 | 7:50

BRIE LARSON | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
CAPTAIN MARVEL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 4:45 | 7:25
FRI 4:45 | 7:25 | 10:10
SAT 2:05 | 4:45 | 7:25 | 10:10
SUN 2:05 | 4:45 | 7:25

BRIANNA DENSKI | JENNIFER GARNER
WONDER PARK
MON-THU 3:45 | 5:40 | 7:35
FRI-SAT 1:50 | 3:45 | 5:40 | 7:35

TYLER PERRY | CASSI DAVIS
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ferent response than the critics and gave the film an A- overall, according to CinemaScore.

"We think it's a solid start," said Cathleen Taff, Disney's president of theatrical distribution. "We're encouraged and hopeful with audience word of mouth." Internationally, "Dumbo" grossed \$71 million, with \$10.7 million coming from China, \$7.4 million from the U.K. and \$7.2 million from Mexico.

Disney has two other high-profile live-action remakes coming out this year in "Aladdin" (May 24) and "The Lion King" (July 19).

"I don't think this is a man-

date against live-action remakes. But sometimes when you don't have the reviews, it can affect it," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst. "For Disney, the bar is set so high. This is just a little speed bump on what is already a spectacular year for Disney."

"Dumbo" did bump Jordan Peele's "Us" to second place. "Us" added \$33.6 million, down only 53%, bringing its domestic total to \$128.2 million in its second week. The Lupita Nyong'o doppelganger movie cost only \$20 million to produce.

"For a horror, which gener-

ally have the scariest drops in the business, 'Us' is really holding in there," Dergarabedian said. "It's good news for Jordan Peele."

Easing the "Dumbo" disappointment, Disney and Marvel's "Captain Marvel" landed in third place in weekend four with an additional \$20.5 million. It's now earned over \$350 million in North America and is expected to cross the \$1 billion mark globally sometime this week.

The teen drama/romance "Five Feet Apart" with Cole Sprouse and Haley Lu Richardson took fourth place with \$6.3 million, down only 27% in its third week. □

Cardi B, Travis Scott to headline Jay-Z's Made in America



This March 3, 2018 file photo shows Travis Scott performing at the Okeechobee Music and Arts Festival on Saturday, March 3, 2018, in Okeechobee, Fla.

Associated Press

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cardi B and Travis Scott are heading to the City of Brotherly Love to headline Jay-Z's annual Made in America

festival.

Live Nation and Roc Nation announced Tuesday that the festival will return to Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Aug.

31-Sept. 1 for Labor Day weekend.

Other performers include Juice WRLD, James Blake, Kodak Black, Kaskade, Tierra Whack, Blueface, Anderson .Paak and The Free Nationals, Jorja Smith, Jacob Banks, KAYTRANADA, Grace Carter and Pink Sweat\$.

Tickets for general public go on sale Friday. Subscribers of Jay-Z's streaming service, Tidal, will have access to purchase tickets through a presale on Tuesday.

Earnings from the festival will benefit the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, and a portion of proceeds will support The REFORM Alliance. □

Angelina Jolie: Fighting for women and justice are crucial

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Actress and activist Angelina Jolie says promoting equality for women, combatting injustice, and helping refugees are the most important parts of her life after her six children.

"But in many ways, they go hand in hand," she said in an interview late Friday with The Associated Press. "It's what I hope my children know is important."

Off camera, the 43-year-old Oscar-winner is focused on trying to help millions of people caught up in the world's crises and conflicts, a passion that began in 2001 when she started working for the United Nations refugee agency and traveling to camps for displaced people often in poor developing countries.

"There are simply so many people around the world suffering, and with so little and in so much pain, and to not be spending our time conscious of them and finding solutions for them — it's an empty life," she said. In the search for solutions, Jolie in 2012 launched the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative with former British foreign secretary William Hague. It is now supported by 156 countries.

Jolie said the initiative's work helped produce the first international protocol on how to document and investigate sexual violence, and national action plans



Angelina Jolie, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees special envoy, address a meeting on U.N. peacekeeping at U.N. headquarters, Friday March 29, 2019.

Associated Press

to combat the scourge adopted by some of the worst-affected countries, including South Sudan, Congo and Colombia.

"We tried to move the needle and we have ... because we are working with many governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society around the world and we are listening," she said.

Jolie said sexual violence is important for her because it is seen as "a weapon of war." "It was not seen as a sexual act," she said. "It costs less than a bullet. It is something that is done sys-

tematically, not only to destroy the individual but their family, their community."

What's worse, Jolie said, is that perpetrators are almost never brought to justice. Now, Jolie said, she is pressing for the United Nations to create a permanent, independent investigative body with a mandate to collect and assess evidence in cases involving alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and other grave human rights violations. During a whirlwind day Friday in which she gave a keynote address to a ministerial meeting on

U.N. peacekeeping, this was one major issue she raised at high-level meetings, including with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the General Assembly president, Germany's foreign minister, Canada's defense minister and campaigners against sexual violence.

"We're getting support," Jolie said.

As part of another campaign to promote the importance of women's participation to peace, Jolie is teaching a master's degree course at the Center for Women, Peace and Se-

curity at the London School of Economics where she is a visiting professor.

She said she has "extraordinary young students who see the issue as it should be seen ... and are committed to making change."

Jolie said she is also working with ministers of defense and NATO on changing military doctrine and training practices to make the prevention of sexual violence a priority, and to increase the number of women in peacekeeping operations. Looking at the world today, Jolie said, "there is such an imbalance, when certain conflicts are addressed, and certain peoples are cared for and other peoples are dismissed, their rights denied, the fight for justice and accountability for the crimes against them not even in discussion."

Despite the world being richer and more technologically advanced than ever before, she reiterated that "we seem incapable of upholding minimum standards of humanity in many parts of world." As examples she pointed to missile strikes on schools and hospitals, families bombed in their homes, chemical weapons dropped on neighborhoods and mass rapes of women, children and men. She noted the sharp rise in displaced people from less than 20 million when she started working for the refugee agency UNHCR to 65 million today and rising. □

Rockabilly Hall of Famer Billy Adams dies at 79

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Rockabilly Hall of Famer Billy Adams, who wrote and recorded the rockabilly staple "Rock, Pretty Mama," has died. He was 79.

Adams died Saturday in Westmoreland, Tennessee. His funeral was held Monday in Spring Hill, Tennessee, said Cliff Doyal, Adams' publicist and manager.

Born in Redbush, Kentucky, Adams was one of 14 children and the son of a coal miner who worked in the Van Lear coal mine, the same place that Loretta



This 2002 photo released by Redbush Classics Records shows rockabilly Hall of Famer Billy Adams performing in Hemsby, England.

Associated Press

Lynn sings about in "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Adams told Public Radio International for a series they did on rockabilly music, that with no money for instruments, he strummed a lard bucket like a guitar and listened to Bill Monroe on the Grand Ole Opry radio program.

Among other songs he recorded in the late '50s include "You Heard Me Knocking," "True Love Will Come Your Way," and "You Gotta Have a Duck Tail."

Adams told PRI he was inspired to write "Rock,

Pretty Mama," listening to the sound of trains near his home.

It was released in 1957 and was included in multiple compilations of rockabilly songs.

He recorded a comeback record at Sun Studios called "Legacy" in 2000.

A 27-track collection of his songs also came out in 2002, which led to him performing at South by Southwest music festival and others. He also wrote and sang gospel music, and one of the songs he penned was "I Saw A Man," a hit for the Happy Goodman Family. □

Agency collects animals killed by cars, poachers for tribes

By FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) —

Arizona Native American tribes on the hunt for animal hides, antlers, teeth and other parts for cultural and religious use have a unique new resource: the state's wildlife agency.

A recently launched program allows Arizona's nearly two dozen tribes to make requests to the state Game and Fish Department for animals that have died from poaching or natural causes, or after being hit by a vehicle.

Agency game managers, researchers and other employees then keep an eye out for the carcasses as part of their regular work.

"It's all just opportunistic collection of what we find out in the field," said the department's tribal liaison, Jon Cooley, who grew up on the Fort Apache reservation in eastern Arizona.

So far, the program's biggest customers are the Navajo Nation, which has collected bear and mule deer carcasses, and the Hopi Tribe, which has requested turtle shells, and turkey and water fowl feathers. The agency also gathered turtle shells for New Mexico pueblos, often used as ankle or hand rattles in ceremonial dances.

The animal parts — as long as they are not badly decayed — are taken to several freezers across the state for pickup. Typically, they would be left for scavengers, thrown away or even burned.

The Game and Fish Department had been working informally with tribes for years to deliver animal parts, and Cooley said it's become more formal now with an



This May 26, 2018 photo provided by the Museum of Northern Arizona shows a performance of a deer dance at the Zuni Festival of Arts and Culture in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Associated Press

established shopping list of sorts, and better communication with tribes and wildlife officials.

Native American tribes traditionally have made use of all parts of an animal. Bones and antlers were crafted into spoons, knife handles and weapons. Clothing and shoes were made from animal hides and pelts. Glue could be drawn from hooves. Tribal regalia is adorned with feathers, bone breast plates and necklaces made of animal teeth.

Parts of the animal were eaten as soon as they were killed, and some was dried and saved for later.

The repository doesn't distribute feathers from eagles or other federally protected migratory birds. The federal government has a repository in Denver for tribes to

son, deer, antelope, and game birds like turkeys. The requests are specific, so Cooley said the department doesn't want the public donating animals or gathering them from the roadside.

"What we don't want to become is a depot for dead critters. That's not the intent," Cooley said.

One thing Game and Fish employees won't store is bears that have been tranquilized, because chemicals could be in the fatty tissues and some tribes prefer not to take animals that have been drugged, Cooley said.

While the Navajo and Hopi have been the biggest beneficiaries so far, the plan is to allow tribes in a broader area — including Southern California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and parts of Texas and Oklahoma — to draw from the repository if Arizona tribes don't need what's there, Cooley said.

The Arizona program appears to be unique in the West. States like New Mexico and Montana allow people to salvage animals that have been killed on the road, sometimes for free, but it's not specific to tribal members.

Alaska accommodates requests for wildlife from Native people on a case-by-case basis.

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society floated the idea at one of its conferences of buying freezers for the Arizona Game and Fish Department to store animals and "everyone was on board, everyone was in support of it," said Darren Talayumptewa, who sits on the society's board of directors.

The society purchased four freezers for Arizona.

"In the past, if the tribes had seen something dead, if it was roadkill, they would try to see how they could obtain it," he said.

"Back in the day ... there was really no process for Native Americans obtaining various parts."

For Hopi, the carcasses allow the tribe to honor the animals, offering them up in prayer.

"No part of the animal is squandered or discarded," said Clayton Honyumptewa, director of the tribe's Department of Natural Resources.

"The ultimate veneration of any animal is through its use in ceremonies and prayers conducted for the renewal and continuation of life." □



In this Thursday, March 28, 2019 photo, a tortoise shell is seen at the Arizona Game and Fish Department offices in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Associated Press



This 2017 photo provided by the Museum of Northern Arizona shows an unidentified man wearing a headpiece fashioned out of an animal hide at the Navajo Festival of Arts and Culture in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Associated Press